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USDA

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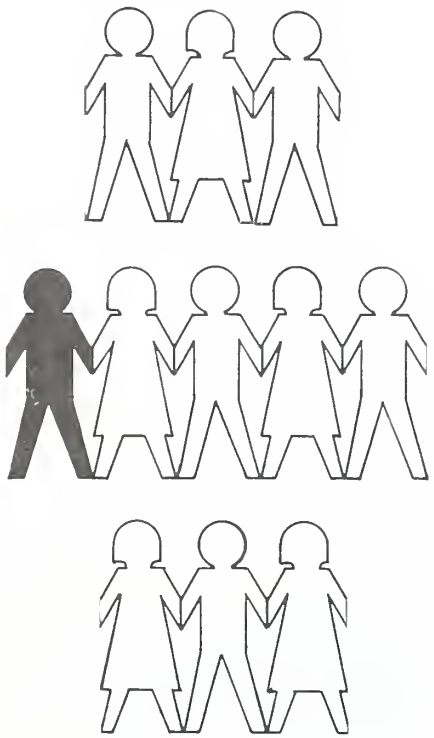
Cashing in

On Employee Ideas

The Government's Incentive Awards Program was 20 years old in 1974 and is still going strong. Suggestions and special achievements have resulted in tangible benefits of over $4 billion since 1954. The Civil Service Commission says that the Government has paid out about $2.9 million in awards, which comes to about 7¢ for every $1 of tangible benefits received. Intangible benefits have accrued over and above that.

Through the years, over 1.5 million employees have been recognized for their outstanding performances and approximately 2 million employees have been honored for adopted ideas. One out of every four suggestions has been adopted and one out of 11 Federal employees is currently recognized for an adopted suggestion or special achievement.



Individual cash awards for suggestions have exceeded $9,000, though the average award in fiscal 1974 was around $105. Awards are based on benefits from the suggestion that can be measured in dollars, such as savings in production time, man-hours, supplies, equipment, or space. The largest cash award ever paid for a suggestion went to an employee of the Army Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency who learned that defective ammunition was scheduled to be restored at additional cost and time. The employee suggested that, instead, the ammunition be used in its current condition for ground warfare only. Man-hour and material savings from this suggestion were estimated at over $10 million.

Special achievement awards can be cash, honorary, or both. They recognize noteworthy accomplishments and excellence of performance. Contributions either within or outside of regular job responsibilities can count toward one of these awards—exemplary performance of assigned tasks; performance which has involved overcoming unusual difficulties; exemplary or courageous handling of an emergency situation in connection with official employment; or creative efforts that make important contributions to scientific research.

The average cash award for special achievement, Government-wide, is about $190. But awards can go as high as $25,000. This top amount has been awarded three times in the program's history—to a naval scientist for his work in the development of the Sidewinder Air-to-Air Missile, to a team of five scientists for their work in the micro-miniaturization of electronic parts, and to another defense scientist for inventing and refining a method for controlling nuclear reactors that helped make nuclear powered submarines and surface ships possible.

In 1963, quality step increases were authorized as an additional monetary recognition under the Salary Reform Act. Continuing top performance in all important elements of a job can lead to an additional one-step increase in salary for employees working under the general schedule.

If one looks at raw numbers, USDA's incentive awards achievements look small next to those of the Defense Department's various brances and other larger Departments. The actual number of their suggestions and awards and the dollar value of the measurable benefits far exceed those in USDA. But when you look at percentages, USDA's record shows respectable program activity. In fiscal 1974, Government-wide, the percentage of adopted suggestions out of the total received was 25.5 percent. In USDA, it was 25.8 percent. Government-wide, special achievement awards went to 4.6 out of every 100 employees. That figure was 4.1 in Agriculture. The average cash award for suggestions, Government-wide, was $105 vs. $93 in USDA. Average cash award for special achievements was $176 Government wide vs. $222 in USDA.

Measurable benefits from both suggestions and special achievements in fiscal year 1974 came to $1,072,807. Quality step increases went to 3.3 out of every 100 USDA employees in fiscal 1974 as compared to 3.6 per 100 Government-wide.

Mae Paulsen, incentive awards program specialist in USDA's Office of Personnel, points out that quality step increases continue to reward increased performance. Unlike one-time cash awards, they're there every payday and accelerate employee progress through the pay steps in a particular grade. If you're interested in a quality step increase or a special achievement award, her advice is to do more than the job requires. It also doesn't hurt to have a supervisor who knows how to use the incentive awards programs to improve operations.

Mrs. Paulsen notes that suggestions are the area where any employee can participate in the incentive awards program. However, she points out that successful suggesting involves more than just submitting "an idea." Those whose ideas are adopted tend to suggest in areas that they know well, research all the facts about the situation they feel needs improvement, analyze these facts, then estimate the costs and potential benefits in terms of dollars. Armed with this information, they're then ready to persuade others that their new approach IS a better way.

The three out of four suggestions that don't make it are usually those that show

little or no research, no knowledge of the area in which the suggestion is being made, and no analysis of costs vs. benefits.

An organized suggestion program is a channel of communication between employees and management. And although USDA's percent of suggestions adopted is comparable to that of the rest of the Government, the number of suggestions the Department receives per 100 employees is less than half that of the Government as a whole. USDA management would like to see more.

If you have an idea that you want to develop and submit as a suggestion, ask your agency's local personnel unit for an AD-287, employee suggestion form and advice on how to make your suggestion as complete as possible.

Make a resolution to be a successful suggester in the new year! □

News

Horse protection—epilogue □ Delight Bumin Around is now ensconced in the lobby of the National Agricultural Library at Beltsville, Md.—or his protrait is, at any rate.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports that for the first time since the passage of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, it could attest to the fact that the grand champion of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration made it to the top of the heap without any maltreatment to produce the breed's high skipping gait. The Celebration, held annually at Shelbyville, Tenn., is the most prestigious Walking Horse show. This year, Delight Bumin Around won the show's grand championship to become the Nation's most prestigous Tennessee Walking Horse.

To commemorate both Delight's achievement and the noteworthy advance in the humane treatment of animals, owners Mary and John C. Miller of Anchorage, Alaska, donated a portrait of their champion to USDA.

USDA to pay half of food stamp program administrative costs □ USDA will now provide financial assistance to state and local agencies for 50 percent of the cost of running the food stamp program.

The new regulations issued recently by the Food and Nutrition Service implement amendments to the Food Stamp Act of 1964.

Under previous regulations, FNS paid for 62-1/2 percent of salaries, fringe benefits and travel expenses for certain certification, outreach, fair hearing and quality control workers only. Under the new regulations, FNS will pay 50 percent of all administrative costs, including but not limited to such formerly non-reimbursable costs as support staff and issuance, storage, protection and inventory of food stamps.

FNS will not reimburse states for the cost of certifying public assistance households for food stamps, since these expenses are reimbursed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

P.L. 93-347, which mandated the new reimbursement rates, also specified that FNS could withhold payment of funds if a state failed to administer the food stamp program "efficiently and effectively." However, FNS will develop and publish such requirements at a later date so as not to delay interim financing of state costs.

Have we wiped out hog cholera? □ Puerto Rico recently got its "hog cholera free" status officially restored recently and in a companion action, the U.S. Virgin Islands was granted such status for the first time.

This means that all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the nearby Virgin Islands are now recognized as "free" of the disease. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials cautioned, however, that because of the persistent nature of hog cholera virus, at least 18 months must pass from the time of the last outbreak, without any new infection, before the disease can be officially declared eradicated.

The last case of hog cholera in the 50 states occurred in Mississippi in February 1974. Similarly, the last case of the disease in Puerto Rico occurred in May 1974. "Hog cholera free" designation was regained after 6 months with no further infection.

Losses from hog cholera were very costly for American hog producers until the national eradication program, approved by Congress in 1961, began making progress toward controlling and stamping out the disease.

Can we increase our food production? □ Can U.S. agriculture continue to expand production in years ahead?

The answers is clearly yes, if farm prices and programs encourage maximum production.

With just existing technologies, USDA economists say that by 1985 we could be producing 50 percent more feed grains, a third more soybeans, 40 percent more beef animals.

And if science and industry manage to come up with new hybrid seed varieties, livestock management practices, and cropping technologies, even greater gains will be possible.

USDA's Economic Research Service evaluated the level of output that could be obtained by U.S. farmers by 1985 with no land held out of production, normal growing conditions, adequate input supplies, and input and product prices that are favorable for increased production.

By 1985, they say wider use of already existing technologies could make for a 9-billion-bushel corn crop (compared with the record 5.6-billion forecast bushel outturn last year. Some of our best farmers already get per acre yields that are 50 percent or more higher than the national average. Wheat and soybean crops could go to 2.3 billion bushels each. The existing records are 1.8 billion bushels for wheat in 1974 and 1.6 billion bushels for soybeans in 1973.

Crop acres harvested could be up to 350 million by 1985, compared with an estimated 322 million today, if prices stay good enough to encourage the cropping of additional land.

Protecting cured meats □ There may be a relatively simple way to control the formation of nitrosamines in cured meat products like frankfurters and bacon.

The way may be to require a compound to be used in the curing process that up until now has only been permitted in limited quantities to aid in developing color.

The compound is sodium ascorbate—or its close relative, sodium erythorbate. Sodium ascorbate is the sodium salt of vitamin C. Its use in the processing of cured meats is presently restricted, not because of any question of its safety, but because of its only recognized contribution has been to the appearance of the products.

Processing tests by ARS chemists *Aaron E. Wasserman* and *Walter Fidley*, which are currently underway, offer some evidence that sodium ascorbate or erythorbate may control the formation of nitrosamines. The concern about nitrosamines arises from the fact that they produce tumors in test animals. Thus, they may be carcinogenic to man, although this has never been proved.

Some cured meats are a potential source of nitrosamines. This is because meats are cured with sodium nitrite (or with sodium nitrate which is converted to sodium nitrite). Sodium nitrite can combine with certain amines which occur naturally in minute concentrations in meat, to form nitrosamines.

If the tests bear out the preliminary indications, it may be that the maximum amounts of these vitamin C compounds now allowed in the curing of meat products will be replaced with minimum requirements for their use. This, along with reduced amounts of sodium nitrite, may guard against the possible dangers of nitrosamines in these foods.

Farmers hired almost 3 million workers in 1973 □ About 2.7 million persons age 14 and over made up the 1973 hired farm working force. The group's profile reveals most were young white males who lived in

nonfarm areas. About half—primarily students and housewives—were not in the labor force most of the year and only 27% were engaged chiefly in farm work. The number of migratory workers has risen slightly since 1971, but the nonmigratory group showed a 6% drop during 1973 after increasing during the 2 preceding years. Last year's decrease in the number of hired farmworkers was greatest in the South and among seasonal workers, reflecting the reduction in cotton acreage and in the production of poultry.

Agricultural finance outlook □ The Economic Research Service's Outlook and Situation Board recently released their projections about 1975 farm finances.

The financial condition of farm operators is expected to change little in 1975, but a modest increase in the number of those having debt repayment problems is likely. Actual developments will depend mainly on the extent of recovery in livestock prices, on the size of the feed crop harvest, and on the strength of foreign demand for farm products.

Demand for operating and real estate loans is expected to remain strong but demand for intermediate term financing (for machinery, equipment, and livestock) is expected to slacken.

Loan funds are expected to be available to meet these demands. Increases in funds from lenders with access to the national money markets, or individual land sellers, will offset any limitations on funds from lenders who draw from local sources.

Total debt outstanding January 1, 1976, is forecast to reach $108 to $111 billion. Total assets are forecast at $598 to $608 billion.

Joint USDA-industry study team issues report on futures trading data systems □ A special study team on commodity futures trading has proposed a new computerized futures trading data system, to include daily reports of each trade.

Details on handling daily reports comprise one of five major recommendations from the Joint USDA-Industry Study Team on Futures Trading Data Systems. Industry members of the team, however, dissent with several concepts in the study report. "We can identify no precedent," they maintain, "in which a business activity is subjected to a complete reporting of every transaction occurring each day, wherein the purpose is solely to achieve regulation. The proposed system would be a radical departure from the present record retention regulations as contained in the current Commodity Exchange Act.

"The study does not contain a legal opinion supporting the constitutionality of the detailed data reporting requirements as they affect individual rights of privacy."

Commodity Exchange Authority Administrator *Alex C. Caldwell* initiated the study and named nine team members in October 1973. Five USDA employees and four industry representatives completed their 11-month study in September.

Caldwell says he supports proposals in the study and will recommend them to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission which has been established by the Congress to regulate all futures trading effective April 21, 1975.

Four major points of the proposed new data system provide for: daily reporting of detailed trade information through the clearing houses to a data service division of CFTC, reporting of background information on selected accounts to CFTC by traders and by carrying firms, reporting of trade execution times, and a computer system to process data and make it available to analysts.

Get your slice of the pie.

Join the Payroll Savings Plan
It is a logical deduction

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

No need to give up pipe dreams □ The corn cob pipe has been rescued from near extinction by a new variety of corn developed by Agricultural Research Service plant geneticists.

The corn variety, Missouri Pipe No. 14, has a big, thick, tough cob perfect for making pipes.

Before this discovery, the corn cob pipe business nearly burnt out when farmers began producing mostly hybrid corn shortly after World War II.

While hybrid corn was popular for livestock feed, the early hybrid cobs were soft and small—not the makings of a good pipe.

Today a small handful of farmers grow this new hybrid corn for the three pipe companies in the Nation's capital of corncob pipe manufacturing, Washington, Missouri.

In fact in 1973 one company alone bought cobs from 2,000 acres, paying $70 an acre for the cobs, a healthy bonus above the price for the corn.

Farmers usually harvest 8,000 to 10,000 usuable cobs per acre and each cob is large enough to make 2 pipes.

New wood product developed □ COM-PLY, a wood product developed by the USDA Forest Service to help increase the Nation's timber supply, was recently used for the first time in a house under construction at Annapolis, Md.

COM-PLY is lumber made like a sandwich with outside facings of solid wood and centers of particleboard (ground-up wood and bark particles bonded together with glue). For example, COM-PLY 2 x 4 studs like the ones used in the Annapolis house have particleboard centers with 5/16-inch solid wood veneers laminated to the 2-inch sides of the studs.

COM-PLY was developed in cooperation with private industry through Forest Service research efforts to totally utilize trees for wood products. In the manufacture of sawn lumber, the stiff outer portion of a tree is often chipped into low-value pulp chips while the center portion is made into lumber. COM-PLY reverses that process, using the high strength, stiff wood from the outer tree for facings and the inner portion for particleboard. In the COM-PLY process, more than 90 percent of a log ends up as lumber, about double the amount of sawn lumber generally obtained from a log.

Pest solution rooted in the common coneflower □ American Indians, and later pharmacists, used extracts of the coneflower for antiseptic, analgesic, and other medicinal purposes. Recently, scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service discovered something else about this common weed and member of the thistle family. Its roots are a veritable insecticide cornucopia. The scientists have isolated one unusual compound from the coneflower root that mimics an insect hormone. The extremely potent ingredient inhibits the growth and development of the yellow mealworm, a pest of stored flour, grain, and other food products. Another compound from the coneflower root killed not only yellow mealworms, but was deadly to house flies, mosquito larvae, and German cockroaches. The scientists isolated still another compound that inhibited two types of cancer. Although not highly active, the third compound may lead to synthesis of other, more potent chemicals.

Something FREE from the IRS? □ There's at least one thing that costs less in 1975 than it did in 1974. The Internal Revenue Service is offering free single copies of the 1975 edition of *Your Federal Income Tax* to anyone who requests it. The 1974 edition of the tax aid cost tax figurers $1. If you'd like a copy, call or stop in at the local IRS office. Check your phone directory for the address or phone number.

People

Scientist gets unique invitation □ *Dr. T. Kent Kirk* of the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., was treated to an unusual Christmas present. Dr. Kirk was flown to Stockholm by the Royal Technical University of Sweden to play a key role in the examination of a doctoral thesis on the use of microorganisms such as molds or bacteria for lignin degradation.

Scandinavia and Finland have pioneered many aspects of pulp and paper production, including biodegradation. The only scientist outside those countries studying biological pulping is Kirk.

Presentation of a doctoral thesis in Sweden calls for an opponent to point out shortcomings in the student's work. Swedish universities usually invite a Scandinavian or Finnish expert in the field to participate.

Besides the FS Madison lab, the only other laboratory in the world currently studying lignin degradation is the Swedish Forest Products Laboratory (STFI). Because STFI cooperates closely with the university giving the degree, its personnel could not participate impartially.

So, in a rare opportunity for an American scientist, Kirk was chosen opponent. When he finished his role of devil's advocate on the thesis, Kirk described his recent work in lectures in Stockholm, at other Swedish laboratories, and in Helsinki, Finland. He also toured laboratories there, gathering more information.

Person to Person

It's tough enough landing that first job out of college, but for *Ron Byrd* it was even harder. Ron is blind and most employers saw that as a handicap rather than an obstacle that can be overcome.

It took 54 interviews, with social and government agencies, before Ron found a personnel specialist's position with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in Dallas, Texas. And he's really enjoying his new job, particularly the counseling and recruiting trips that take him to the 11 states in the FNS West-Central region.

Not everyone, however, is able to accept Ron's blindness as easily as he does. His recent job hunting experience is a good example.

"Employers told me how I couldn't do the job rather than letting me tell them how I could do the job," he recalls.

And Ron tells the story of an interview he recently had with an applicant. "As I shook hands with the man, I could just feel him thinking that here's a guy with two strikes against him he's blind and black."

But Ron is able to laugh these things off, preferring to believe that it's all right to be blind in the eyes as long as you're not blind in the mind.

And Ron's mind is anything but blind.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bishop College in Dallas where he served as liaison between the student body and the administration and was assistant dean of men. He won a Ford foundation merit scholarship for college.

A native of Indiana, Ron attended public schools and ran track in high school. He left his homestate several years ago and moved to Dallas to "break the apron strings."

Ron denies that he's accomplished anything special. Instead, he feels that everyone has some kind of problem to overcome and his just happens to be blindness.

"Life is a struggle for everyone," he says. But if everyone had an attitude like Ron's, it would make the struggle a lot easier. □

Ron Byrd *of FNS*

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'USDA'

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DOCUMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Quality Protection for the Work Force

Federal employees' compensation is like life insurance—it's nice to know you have it, but you hope you won't have to use it.

Federal employees' compensation covers civilian Government workers who are injured on the job or suffer a disabling, employment-related disease. This "insurance" under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) also pays benefits to dependents in the event of death from such an injury or disease.

The first major revision of the Act in over 8 years became law (P.L. 93-416) on September 7, 1974. Congress updated and revised the basic Act so that it would reflect the most equitable methods for compensation.

Among major improvements in the law is the continuation of pay. The Act as newly amended authorizes the employing agency to continue an employee's pay for a period not exceeding 45 calendar days where the employee files a claim under the Act based on a "traumatic" injury.

Prior to the 1974 amendments, compensation was paid from the date wage loss began (subject to the statutory waiting period); however notice of injury and claim had to be submitted for adjudication before payment could be made. As a result, employees were subject to a delay between notice of injury and initial payment, often causing economic hardship for the worker and his family. According to a report by the General Accounting Office, the delay ranged from 49 to 70 days.

The 1974 amendments also provide certain civil service retention rights for injured and disabled Federal employees. The amended Act assures that employees who are injured on the job and are receiving disability compensation will incur no loss of benefits they would have received had they not been injured or disabled—provided that they resume Federal employment. Thus employees will be allowed to retain their Government-sponsored insurance, and their time on the disability rolls will be credited as active service time for within-grade step increases, retention purposes, and other rights and benefits based on length of service.

The new provision also guarantees that an injured employee will have the right to return to his or her old job or an equivalent position if recovery from the disability should occur within 1 year from the time compensation payments begin.

Even if a disability extends beyond 1 year, the employing agency is to give priority to the placement of the injured worker in his former position or one equivalent to it in that agency or in any other agency.

Under the new amendments, partially disabled workers who are enrolled in an approved program of rehabilitation can continue to receive full compensation from the Government. The old provision required a reduction in compensation when an employee's disability changed from total to partial.

Other changes in the law raise the maximum monthly allowance for vocational rehabilitation maintenance from $100 to $200, and the maximum monthly allowance for attendants from $300 to $500 when such services are necessary.

The more liberal vocational rehabilitation benefits should serve to spur additional employees to undergo and successfully complete vocational rehabilitation training.

Federal employees now have a choice between using existing Federal facilities for medical treatment or approved private physicians and hospitals. The old law required an injured worker to make use of available Federal facilities and permitted the use of private physicians only if it was impractical to use Federal facilities.

In addition to permitting the employee a choice of facilities and physicians, the new law greatly expands the definition of authorized physicians and available services. The expanded definition includes podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors subject to certain limitations.

Prior to the 1974 amendments, generally no compensation was payable for the loss of personal property due to accident. Nonreimbursable personal property included such items as artificial limbs and other prosthetic devices. The amended definition of the term "injury" under the Act includes damage to or destruction of medical braces, artificial limbs, and other prosthetic devices.

The new law makes clear that eyeglasses and hearing aids are not covered in cases where such items are accidentally damaged or destroyed under conditions not involving personal injury. Eyeglasses and hearing aids will not be replaced or otherwise compensated for, unless the damage or destruction is incident to an injury requiring medical services.

Federal employees killed or injured while serving as Federal grand or petit jurors are now covered under the Act as a result of the amendments. The intent of the new provision is to apply coverage on the same basis as if the juror were on a special mission as part of his Federal employment.

As a result of the 1974 amendments, Federal employees will no longer have to wait 2 months for payment of cost-of-living increases in compensation benefits. Prior to the amendments, compensation benefits were adjusted following a 3 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index for

3 consecutive months over the price index for the latest base month, but the law provided a 2-month waiting period before the actual adjustment was made.

The amended FECA provides for equal treatment of surviving widows and widowers, eliminating the artificial differences in entitlement between husband and wife. The new law also liberalizes benefits for surviving spouses generally by 5 percent, with the benefits for a widow or widower without eligible dependent children increased from 45 to 50 percent, with an additional 15 percent for each child, up to a combined maximum total of 75 percent.

The amended law also improves benefits for a child if there is no surviving widow or widower, with benefits for a single surviving child increased from 35 to 40 percent.

The new law for the first time allows employees or survivors to receive benefits administered by the Veterans Administration while receiving FECA benefits, as long as such payment is not for the same injury or death. It also permits concurrent receipt of military retirement or retainer pay by a retired member of the Armed Forces, subject to the limitation that an employee will not receive more during his post-injury period than he received before.

The revised law also provides that compensation payments will not be paid for the first 3 days of disability unless the disability persist for 14 days as compared with 21 days in the old law. This amendment represents a compromise between the interests of reducing the number of payments for truly minor disabilities and of insuring that even moderately serious injuries will have benefits restored retroactively for the first days lost.

The new law extends the period for filing a claim from 1 to 3 years. Before the amendments became law, a number of meritorious claims were denied because of failure of the claimant to file within the 1-year statute of limitation.

The amendments are an example of a humane approach to a human problem—what to do if an employee is disabled by job-related sickness or injury. It's comforting to know that if and when that rainy day comes, you don't have to weather it alone. You now have better "insurance" than you had before. □

Story by Carvin Cook,
U.S. Department of Labor

Excerpted from *Civil Service Journal.* **Oct. - Dec. 1974**

News

Food aid to needy nations hits $1.6 billion in FY 1975 □ An increase in the fiscal year 1975 budget for food aid under the Food for Peace Program (Public Law 480) brings the total program to $1.6 billion. The new figure compares with $963 million spent in 1974. The volume of P.L. 480 food shipments in the current fiscal year is expected to reach more than 5.5 million metric tons, compared with 3.3 million tons in 1974.

"The increase in food aid," said *Secretary Butz* in a recent press release "confirms once again that the U.S. intends to share fully in supplying needy nations with food—even during a period of decreased supplies in the United States.

"The revised FY 75 budget increase reflects our continuing reassessment of world supplies and the needs of deficit nations. There has been some easing of wheat supplies, and we should be able to take care of the additional P.L. 480 programming without threat to domestic food supplies or interfering with normal marketings."

For the last 20 years, the United States has provided food assistance to friendly countries, based on need, through the Food for Peace Program.

American farm products are exported under one of two major provisions of the Food for Peace Program:

□ Long Term Credit—U.S. Government financing is offered to recipient countries to buy our agricultural commodities. These loans must be repaid, with interest, generally within 20 to 40 years.

□ Donations—Outright grants of U.S. agricultural commodities are made to feed needy people and to meet emergencies. We make commodity donations available through nonprofit voluntary relief agencies such as CARE, under direct government-to-government agreements, and through multinational organizations such as the World Food Program.

One of the most early helpful effects of U.S. food assistance has been the shift from aid to trade. A number of nations, whose economies were strengthened by an infusion of American tax-supported agricultural shipments, have shifted from assistance to commercial purchases from the United States. For example, of America's top 20 cash customers for agricultural products in 1973, 5 received more than $600 million each in U.S. farm products under Government-financed programs since 1954. These countries are Israel, Taiwan, Republic of Korea, Brazil, and Spain.

Longing for an overseas work assignment? □ The Peace Corps is looking for agriculture volunteers who are interested in any of the over 250 positions currently open. The work ranges from establishing 4-H clubs to organizing farm cooperatives. Over 2,000 agriculture volunteers are already using their skills in extension work with subsistence farmers. Their efforts help to keep agriculture moving in developing countries. The volunteers train host country nationals who carry on the work once the volunteer departs.

Peace Corps assignments are for 2 years. Living expenses are paid and an $1800 stipend is set aside for each returning volunteer. A foreign language is not a requirement—all volunteers receive 3-month, informal training in the language of the host country. There is no upper age limit for joining the Peace Corps and arrangements can be made for husbands and wives to serve together as volunteers.

Federal employees who join the Peace Corps can count their 2 years as a volunteer toward their total time in Federal service.

To find out more about being an agricultural volunteer, write: Peace Corps, Agricultural Coordinator, Rm. 322-N, One North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60606.

Give your mind a spring tonic □ The USDA Graduate School's spring schedule of courses is now available. New evening school classes, held in Washington, D.C., include Money Management, Divorce, Bonsai, Bird Migration, Transactional Analysis in Management, and many other first-time offerings.

The spring schedule also lists Graduate School special programs for groups which can be arranged in various locations, and correspondence courses for those who wish to study on their own.

To get a spring schedule, write: USDA Graduate School, Rm. 1031-So., Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Graduate School is currently revising two of its correspondence courses—Hydrology and Basic Accounting. Once revised, the accounting course will be eligible for college credit. To receive an announcement about either of the revised courses when they are available, write: *Norma Harwood,* Coordinator; Independent Studies Program; USDA Graduate School; Rm. 6847-So.; Washington, D.C. 20250.

FS research unit transfers □ Forest Service research units in Columbus, Ohio, a part of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, have transferred to the Station's Delaware, Ohio, laboratory.

Station Director *F. Bryan Clark* says the move was made in order to achieve a more efficient and economical operation.

The Forest Service laboratory does research on forest insect and disease problems affecting eastern tree species. The Columbus units will add three new research functions—forest economics, wood utilization, and forest management.

The Northeastern Station, which is responsible for forest-related studies in 14 States, is one of eight Forest Service regional research stations.

Fire rated costliest in nation □ A disasterous spring fire which caused extensive property damage in the communities of Weed and Sacramento, Ariz., plus more than 15,000 acres of the Forest Service's Lincoln National Forest has been rated the costliest fire in 1974 by the National Fire Protection Association.

The association's annual report said the blaze destroyed $32 million in property, far worse than any other holocaust during the year.

Consumer activism can make the grade □ USDA has published a pamphlet, *Food Quality—What You Can Do About the USDA Grades* to help the public learn about and comment on proposed actions on U.S. grade standards for food.

USDA grades are found on a number of foods, such as beef, poultry, eggs, butter, and some canned, frozen, and fresh fruits and vegetables. The grade standards describe the requirements a product must meet to be certified as being a specific USDA grade.

When changes are requested in U.S. grade standards, USDA first proposes the change, and requests written comments from interested persons or organizations. A period of 30 days to 1 year may be set for comments. The action does not become final until all comments received are studied.

The pamphlet explains that consumers can expect to find announcements of proposed changes in the press or in newsletters of consumer groups; describes how to obtain further information; and gives examples of typical comments. Citing reasons—either favorable or unfavorable is most important.

U.S. grade standards are established by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to aid in marketing food and farm products. AMS provides grading services, for a fee, to packers, shippers, wholesalers, or others who request the service. Use of the grade standards or grading services is voluntary under Federal law, and graded products are not required to be labeled by grade.

For a single free copy of *Food Quality—What You Can Do About the USDA Grades* (AMS-562) write Information Division, USDA-AMS, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Pamphlet on dairy grading and inspection services □ Anybody who produces or markets dairy products will be interested in a new USDA pamphlet which describes the USDA grading and inspection services available to the dairy industry on a voluntary, cost-for-service basis.

The services, administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, consist of four programs—plant surveys, inspection and grading, laboratory testing, and quality control. Through these programs, USDA helps improve the quality, wholesomeness, manufacture, and distribution of butter, cheese, evaporated milk, instant nonfat dry milk, and other dry milk and dry whey products.

Single copies of the pamphlet are available from the USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250. Ask for *Dairy Inspection and Grading Services* (MB-48).

People

Region 5 Federal Regional Council representative changes □ *Gary K. Madson,* USDA Federal Regional Council representative for region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin), has returned from Chicago to be deputy administrator of USDA's Rural Development Service. Madson left that same RDS position a year ago for the midwestern post.

Region 5 council duties are now assigned to Regional General Counsel *Gilbert Horn,* USDA's Office of General Counsel.

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5.00	131	414	730	1,734	3,090
625	165	519	915	2,172	3,871
7.50	198	623	1,097	2,606	4,644
9.38	247	779	1,373	3,262	5,814
12.50	330	1,039	1,831	4,348	7,750
18.75	495	1,560	2,749	6,530	11,638
25.00	659	2,079	3,663	8,702	15,509
37.50	989	3,120	5,498	13,061	23,275
50.00	1,319	4,158	7,328	17,409	31,025

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See your agency representative today and sign up for U.S. Savings Bonds through the payroll savings plan now during the USDA Bonds Drive

Person to Person

Consumers who want to learn more about food can get some valuable tips from the work of the women food graders for USDA.

They include women with college degrees in home economics, animal science, and chemistry as well as some who started their careers with USDA in secretarial jobs.

Charlene R. Mahler, in Milford, Ind., is the poultry-grader-in-charge for one of the largest duck slaughtering and processing plants in the nation, where 12,000 to 16,000 birds are processed every day. Sherry worked for 5 years as a "limited authorized grader" (a plant employee who works under the supervision of USDA-licensed poultry graders) before becoming a USDA grader herself in 1966.

Majorie Cooper is the egg grader-in-charge at a large processing plant in North Manchester, Ind., where 180,000 eggs are produced and packed daily. Her duties include checking plant sanitation and certifying the quality of eggs on the basis of U.S. grade standards. In USDA's regional grading lab in Winter Haven, Fla., *Anne Pinner* uses sophisticated equipment to run special tests on orange juice samples. She also runs the lab's taste panel which was begun in 1966 to check consumers' taste preferences for orange juice. And there are many others.

With specialities ranging from rice to ducks, these women are experts in their fields. They—and the men in USDA's grading force—certify the quality of over 50 percent of our beef, turkey, chicken and other poultry products, butter, and fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. USDA grading services are available on request and for a fee to cover the cost. Many growers, processors, retailers, and institutional buyers use these services as an aid in quality control, buying, and selling.

Grading procedures vary from product to product because no two foods are exactly the same. A meat grader determines the "eating quality" of beef, for example, on the basis of its color, firmness, texture, and marbling in relation to its maturity or age. For poultry, quality means the meatiness and finish of the bird, and freedom from defects such as cuts, tears, and bruises. Most fruits and vegetables are rated on color, shape, size, maturity, and number and degree of defects. Flavor and tenderness are also quality factors for some fruits and vegetables, particularly those that are canned or frozen.

Although grading is different for different foods, grading of each food is uniform nationwide. The graders—using USDA's grade standards check the quality of these foods and give them a final grade. This grade—like U.S. Choice for beef or U.S. Grade A for orange juice—is a basis for pricing the product throughout the marketing system.

For the consumer, the grade is also assurance . . . assurance that the food's quality has been certified by an experienced, unbiased USDA grader. □

ABOVE

Charlene Mahler

BELOW

Marjorie Cooper *uses a micrometer to measure the height of the thick white of an egg. This is the most objective method of determining egg quality and is used as a spot check along with other test of quality in some grading programs.*

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USDA Vol. 34. No. 5, March 5, 1975
Bonnie Kreitler, Editor
Ida Mack, Staff Assistant

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'USDA'

Volume 34
Number 6
March 19, 1975

A Weathervane for Agricultural Change

What changes have occurred in U.S. agriculture in the past 5 years?

More and more people are interested in the agricultural low-down. So you can bet they'll be watching the Census of Agriculture, now underway, very closely.

Late in December of last year the Commerce Department's Census Bureau mailed 4½ million report forms to all farms with annual sales of $2,500 or more, while a short form was dispatched to farmers with sales under $2,500.

Census by mail allows farmers to complete reports at their convenience and to make use of farm business records. In the absence of records, best estimates are acceptable.

The mailing list of farm operators is compiled largely from administrative records of Federal agencies. The list includes nearly all places and farm operators having some agricultural operations. Their answers are confidential and can be seen only by census employees. Individual farm data are never given to any other government agency, local officials, tax collectors, police, health or welfare personnel, or anyone else.

In fact, when the reports are processed, all personal identification, such as name and address, are withheld as the numbers are fed into computers. This means that no farmer and no individual farm data are identifiable in the resulting output.

The Census Bureau asked farm operators for three kinds of information about their 1974 operations:

☐ First, a count of farm resources, number of farms, area of farmland, acres of cropland and pasture, number of each kind of livestock and poultry, number of persons working on farms, number of various kinds of farm equipment.

☐ Second, a record of farm products produced and sold during 1974.

☐ Third, selected farming activities during 1974 such as number of days of off-farm work by the farmer, amount spent for farm labor, for custom work, for feed, for gasoline and oil.

New wrinkles in the 1974 census forms were a new set of questions on work-related injuries and illnesses, farmers' use of production and marketing contracts and use of the commodity futures market, and on-farm grain and fuel storage capacities.

Farmers were asked to complete and return their forms within a month, but 6 months are allowed to complete all census taking. In other words, data collection won't be closed out until June 30, 1975.

Since the data for each county must be completed before the Census Bureau can begin preparing the county reports, it will be the latter part of 1975 before any reports are released.

The current census, 20th in a series of farm counts dating back to 1840, serves as a critical planning base for everyone whose livelihood depends on farming. At the time of the last census, farms and farmers provided about one-third of the Nation's jobs.

It is from the census of agriculture that data are taken to form the basis for programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Congressional farm legislation, farm organization policies, farm programs established and administered by state departments of agriculture, and many other services provided by colleges, business firms, manufacturers, publishers, and broadcasters.

The census is the only source of statistics on agriculture that are comparable from county to county nationwide. It is also the sole source of comprehensive data tabulated for each State and for the United States for farms classified by size, tenure, type or organization, market value of products sold, and type of farm enterprise.

The traditional schedule of taking a census of agriculture every 5 years in years ending in 4 and 9 may be changed so that data on agriculture—the Nation's biggest business—can be collected for the same period as that on business, manufacturing, and construction. Data on these economic activities are collected covering years ending in 2 and 7.

The Census Bureau has proposed that the next agricultural census cover 1978 and the following one cover 1982. Thus, there would be only a 4-year lapse between the new two agricultural censuses until they are brought into line with the other economic censuses. ☐

News

They're worried about food prices all over the world ☐ For the first time in a year, food price indexes have advanced in all 13 countries surveyed by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Indexes are compared on a 1-month, 3-month, and 1-year percentage basis.

The 13 countries surveyed are Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Sweden headed the advance on a 1-month basis with a rise of 4 percent. Italy followed with the greatest increase on a 3-month basis (8.8 percent), and on a 1-year basis Japan took the lead with 29.2 percent. On a 1-year basis, the price

indexes of seven countries outpaced increases in the U.S. price index.

The FAS survey is conducted in 15 world capitals covering 18 food items priced in retail markets.

An FAS survey of retail food prices in selected cities on January 3, showed actual prices in Washington, D.C. (the only U.S. city on the list) below the world median for most of the commodities surveyed including sirloin steak, chuck roast, ham, broilers, eggs, butter, and tomatoes. Washingtonians were paying more than the world median price for items such as apples, oranges, bread, milk, cooking oil, rice, and sugar.

Aerial photo labs will be consolidated ☐ After complete review of the proposal, USDA plans to proceed with the consolidation of its aerial photography laboratories into one operation.

The consolidation will involve labs operated in Asheville, N.C., and Salt Lake City, Utah, by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and eventual co-location with the Forest Service geometronics facility in Ogden, Utah. The consolidated facility will be located in the Ogden-Salt Lake City area.

Department officials say consolidation of the labs into a single facility will result in more efficient use of personnel and equipment with substantial savings to the government.

Next year's outlook comes sooner this year ☐ The 1976 National Agricultural Outlook Conference has been set for Nov. 17-20, 1975, at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The conference, sponsored by the Economic Research Service and the Extension Service, will give particular attention to the 1976 outlook for U.S. agriculture, the general economy, various commodities, and family living.

In recent years, the Outlook Conference has been held annually in February. Last year it was moved up to December to give analysts an earlier view of what lies ahead. The move to November marks a return to the month in which Outlook Conferences were originally held.

Minorities make gains in Federal employment ☐ Minority employment in Federal full-time nonpostal jobs increased nearly 1 percent (.9) during the 1-year period ending November 30, 1973, despite a continuing decline in total employment.

As of November 30, 1973, gains for Negroes, Spanish-surnamed Americans, American Indians, and Oriental Americans totaled 3,113 jobs in Federal agencies other than the U.S. Postal Service, increasing from 363,347 in November 1972. Including postal employment minorities held 20.9 percent of all full-time Federal jobs in November 1973.

The Civil Service Commission attributes employment gains for minorities to vigorous implementation of Federal agency equal employment opportunity programs required by Executive Order 11478 and increased enforcement activity by the Commission under provisions of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

The most significant minority gains occured in white-collar jobs under the General Schedule (GS). While total employment in this category dropped by 23, 266 jobs or 1.7 percent, minority employment increased 217 percent or 5,666 jobs. Minorities held 16.7 percent of all full-time positions under the General Schedule and similar pay plans in November 1973, up from 16.0 percent in November 1972.

Most of the minority gains in the General Schedule occurred in the better paying jobs. The number of minorities employed and their percentage increased in the middle and higher grades, although there were slight decreases in the top-level jobs.

America is still fuming ☐ Despite the warnings of the Surgeon General, more Americans are smoking. And according to Economic Research Service economist *Robert H Miller*, the amount of tobacco used in making cigarettes for U.S. consumption may rise 10 to 20 percent over the next decade.

Miller recently told the 26th National Tobacco Workers Conference that he expects 1985 consumption of cigarettes to at least equal the 1974 rate of 211 packs per adult, which was second only to the 217 packs consumed in 1963. Based on the 1974 rate of per capita use, 1985 cigarette production would require 11 percent more tobacco than was used in 1974. If there is less concern in the future about the health hazards of smoking, Miller speculated that per capita use may increase 10 percent. That translates to a 20 percent increase of tobacco needed for cigarettes.

Miller also told the conference that as long as natural tobacco supplies are available and not much more expensive than they are now, the possibility is remote that synthetic tobacco will make inroads into the U.S. market. Foreign markets for synthetic tobacco are presently being developed, but demand will depend heavily on tax and additive laws in each country.

In one port and out the other ☐ U.S. exports of farm products for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, are currently projected at $22 billion, compared with the previous record of $21.3 billion shipped overseas in 1974. Although the 1975 outlook for individual commodities has changed slightly since December, the overall value for exports of farm products remains virtually unchanged. For the year, tonnage of the principal bulk commodities is expected to drop by more than 15 percent. However, higher prices for many of the commodities will more than offset the volume decline.

Agricultural imports are expected to total $10.7 billion in fiscal 1975—approximately $1.2 billion above last year. The value of imported sugar and related products is expected to be up $2 billion. Thus, agriculture's contribution to the U.S. trade balance should total over $11 billion and compare favorably with the $11.8 billion of 1974.

USDA & EPA agree on training of pesticide applicators ☐ *Secretary Butz* and EPA Administrator Russell Train have signed an interagency cooperative agreement calling for Federal, State, and local cooperation in the training and certification of pesticide applicators.

EPA said applicator certification is a positive effort to insure the safe and proper use of potentially hazardous or environmentally damaging products. EPA also noted that certification may permit continued use of products which might otherwise have to be banned since they pose unacceptable hazards to people or the environment unless used by well-trained applicators.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended in 1972, requires that pesticides be classified for either "general" or "restricted" use and that potential users of "restricted" products be certified by Oct. 1976 as being professionally qualified to use such products safely. To carry out these requirements, EPA issued standards for certification of applicators on Oct. 9, 1974, and guidelines for State plans for training and certifying applicators on Jan. 13, 1975. The present cooperative agreement will help the States to implement training programs with organizational and technical assistance from USDA. The USDA Extension Service will work closely with EPA to assist the states' Cooperative Extension Services.

Dung beetles combat flies ☐ The Afro-Asian dung beetle may provide the cattle industry with a large measure of relief from manure accumulations and subsequent horn fly infestations.

Dung beetles, known to most as scarabs, were sacred to the ancient Egyptians who wore small carved stone replicas as amulets or charms for their magical "protective" powers.

The beetles are natural dung feeders and when present in large numbers can

rapidly break down manure accumulations, the breeding medium for horn flies.

They break down the manure both by consuming the liquids and also by rolling it into tiny balls that are buried in the ground, each with a beetle egg that will hatch and use the ball as a source of food. By removing the manure, the beetles deprive the horn flies of a place to breed.

Laboratory and field studies by Agricultural Research Service entomologist *Richard Blume* confirm the expectation that where beetles are present in sufficient numbers, the average number of horn flies that emerge from manure can be reduced by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

The horn fly is a blood-sucking pest. It attacks cattle primarily, but also threatens horses and, less frequently, sheep. The pest's bites irritates beef cattle to the point that they do not eat properly or gain weight as rapidly as they should.

We lose more than we cut □ In the National Forests, enough trees are lost each year to insects, fire, disease, and other natural catastrophes to create 50,000 jobs in the forest products industry and build 500,000 houses.

New pyrethroid insecticides are even safer than pyrethrum □ New pyrethroids, synthetic substitutes for the natural insecticides of the pyrethrum plant, appear to be more effective against target insects and even less hazardous to people and animals than the natural product, according to studies by USDA scientists.

Industry data show that the new pyrethroids are less toxic to laboratory animals than DDT or carbaryl. In greenhouse tests conducted by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, Md., the new insecticides proved lethal to a wide range of agricultural and disease-bearing insects.

Pyrethroids are especially effective against aphids and certain other sucking insects, but will also kill chewing insects. Yellow fever mosquitoes, house flies, American and German cockroaches, Japanese beetles, boll weevils, Colorado potato beetles and confused flour beetles were killed after treatment by one or more of the new pyrethroids tested by ARS.

Natural pyrethrum is obtained from dried, powdered flowers of the pyrethrum plant and is used in insecticidal sprays and dusts. It is not harmful to plants and is regarded as one of the world's least toxic insecticides to man and animals. Supplies of these flowers are limited however, making natural pyrethrum rather expensive.

Commercial interest in safer insecticides has been increasing since the first pyrethroid, allethrin, was synthesized in 1949 by *Milton S. Schecter*, Chief of the Beltsville Chemical and Biophysical Control Laboratory.

In recent ARS research, entomologist *William N. Sullivan* applied the experimental pyrethroid compounds in aerosol and dust forms under conditions simulating disinsection of aircraft and other enclosed areas. "These promising new pyrethroids are applicable to the home, the farm, greenhouse, or warehouse as well as in commercial aircraft," Sullivan said.

The tests included the 2 percent resmethrin aerosol, which is approved by the World Health Organization as a substitute for a pyrethrum-DDT formulation used in disinsecting international aircraft to prevent the spread of insect vectors of disease. The 2 percent resmethrin formulation has just been cleared by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The wine drinkers go first—who's next? □ The Foreign Agricultural Service reports that the alcoholic beverage industry is to be the first major U.S. industry to convert to metrification. They say that according to an announcement by the Treasury Department, domestic and imported wines must be bottled in seven standard metric sizes as of January 1, 1979.

The seven new metric sizes are 3 liters (101 oz), 1.5 liters (50.7 oz), 1 liter (33.8 oz), 750 milliliters (25.4 oz), 375 milliliters (12.7 oz), 187 milliliters (6.3 oz), and 100 milliliters (3.4 oz).

Conversion to metric bottles will reduce the number of domestic wine bottle sizes from 16 to 7, and imported wine bottle sizes from about 27 to 7.

The standard sizes should facilitate buyer comparison and unit pricing of wines by retail stores. In addition, the regulations require bottlers to state the net content of the bottle in metric measurement with the equivalent volume in U.S. measure to be shown in fluid ounces, accurate to the nearest one-tenth of an ounce, if the conversion is done before January 1, 1979.

Energy conservation begins at home □ The newest U.S. Department of Agriculture slide set, *Energy: Use It Wisely Around the Home*, is designed to show consumers how to conserve energy and reduce costs in the home.

For example, is the frost buildup in your refrigerator greater than one-fourth inch? Extra frost cuts down on the cooling power of the coils, meaning more current is needed to keep the refrigerator cool.

Selecting paint to brighten up the interior of your house? Why not consider light colors? They reflect light and could save energy and cut costs.

The 69-frame slide set *Energy: Use It Wisely Around the Home* can be purchased for $18.50 from Photography Division, USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for $11.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. A cassette with soundtrack including both 50 Hz and 1,000 Hz pulses to change frames automatically and two copies of the illustrated narrative guide are included in the price.

People

Associate director for NAL □ *Samuel T. Waters* has been appointed Associate Director of the National Agricultural Library, filling the position vacated by Dr. Joseph F. Caponio in June 1973.

This year's young executives are ambitious □ The 1974-75 Young Executives Committee, under the Chairmanship of Under Secretary of Agriculture *J. Phil Campbell* has selected three areas to study during this year.

The group plans to review priorities and direction of research in agriculture, the Administration's response to rural development needs, and foreign agricultural development.

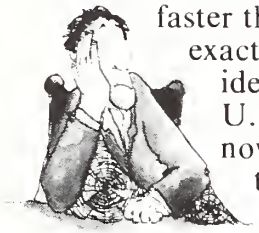
The Young Executives Committee involves its members in work and topics that go beyond the activities of their own agency. Members are chosen from a group of young women and men 35 years of age or under and GS-12 level or above nominated by their Department agencies because of their accomplishments and potential for further growth.

Members of the current Committee are: *Alice E. Beach*, Office of Equal Opportunity; *Frances Sue Benedetti*, Extension Service; *Roy E. Blocher*, Office of Operations; *Lee A. Bulla, Jr.*, Agricultural Research Service; *Alfonzo Drain*, Statistical Reporting Service; *Wilmer L. Fischer*, Farmers Home Administration; *Michael J. Gippert*, Office of the General Counsel; *Charles I. Harper, Jr.*, Rural Electrification Administration; *J. Paul Holmes, Jr.*, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; *Charles F. Krebs*, Forest Service; *Donald A. Kyle*, Office of Personnel; *Michael J. Phillips*, Farmer Cooperative Service; *Thomas R. Pugh*, Rural Development Service; *Alex Salters, Jr.*, Office of Audit; *Rebecca Sammartino*, Agricultural Marketing Service; *James Henry Starker, III*, Foreign Agricultural Service; *W. Scott Steele*, Economic Research Service; *Joseph Stutz*, Office of Investigation; *James G. Vertress*, Office of Planning and Evaluation.

What's in it for you?

U.S. Savings Bonds are one way to take stock in America. And they're really a great way–because they do so much for you. U.S. Savings Bonds are full of advantages for the individual saver.

You don't have to wait forever for your money.
Any sizeable savings take a while to accumulate. But Bonds now mature faster than ever. (5 years, to be exact.) So while they're still ideal for long-term plans, U. S. Savings Bonds can now work for your short term goals.



Our interest rate is nothing to scoff at.
E Bonds yield a healthy interest of 6% when held to maturity of 5 years (4½% the first year). And remember, there's a 10-year extension privilege beyond maturity for continued earning.

You have some options with taxes.
First of all, U.S. Savings Bond interest is exempt from all state and local income taxes. With federal income tax, you may choose to defer reporting your interest until the Bonds are redeemed or reach final maturity (whichever comes first). And if you're building funds for education or retirement, you have special tax-saving opportunities that are worth looking into.

If you need a shove to get you saving, we can do that too.
All you have to do is sign up for the Payroll Savings Plan at work. Then an amount you specify is set aside from your paycheck each month and used to buy Bonds. While you use your take-home pay for immediate needs, you're also building a nice nest egg. Automatically.

They're safe from bad luck, bad memory and bad guys.
Bonds are replaced if destroyed, lost or stolen. With no red-tape hassles. And at no cost to you.

They come in all sizes, but they offer a lot of hope, love and encouragement. For someone special, Bonds are a Gift Certificate of the Imagination.

U.S. Savings Bonds. What it comes down to is taking stock in yourself.

See your agency representative now and sign up for Bonds through Payroll Savings during the USDA Savings Bonds drive

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor
Ida Mack, Staff Assistant

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'USDA'

Volume 34
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Agriculture prepares to thwart foreign invaders

Plant pathologist Chris G. Schmitt *examines the bleached (chlorotic) stripe stage of downy mildew development on sorghum leaves. The chlorotic stage is the diagnostic stage of the disease as seen in the field. The sorghum plants are being grown under strict quarantine emperimental conditions at the Plant Disease Research Laboratory in Frederick, Md.*

What are the risks that foreign plant diseases will spread to the United States? Or that they will wipe out thousands of acres of crops before anyone identifies the pathogens and finds a solution?

Serious enough to keep a dozen USDA scientists working full-time. Some 10 plant pathologists, an entomologist, a plant physiologist, and their supporting staff concentrate on preventive studies of plant disease at the Agricultural Research Service's Plant Disease Research Laboratory, Frederick, Md.

"Increasing world trade and international travel multiply the risks to U.S. crops from plant diseases now found only abroad," says *Charles H. Kinsolver,* who heads the Frederick laboratory. "We must assume that foreign pathogens will gain entrance sooner or later. We can't afford to wait for a new destructive disease to appear before initiating study. We need to know in advance how big a threat it will be in this country, and how it can be handled if it does get in.

"The Plant Disease Research Laboratory is developing knowledge on the vulnerability of our major crops to exotic diseases," Dr. Kingsolver says. "This knowledge is put to work to protect those crops.

"Stem rust of wheat is a classic example of a plant disease that 'got away'," Dr. Kingsolver notes. "It may have come with the wheat brought by early settlers, and it could have been introduced repeatedly into this country when foreign varieties of wheat were obtained at various times." Today, the stem-rust fungus regularly destroys about 4 percent of the U.S. wheat crop, causing losses to growers of $80 million in an average year.

In consultation with world authorities on crop diseases, Dr. Kingsolver and his staff have reviewed literature on more than 1,000 pathogens that infect crops grown abroad. Pathogens considered most dangerous to our major crops are now being selected for intensive study.

Field investigations at overseas locations are planned to supplement the research here.

The potentially most important corn, soybeans, and wheat diseases not yet established in this country, have been chosen for the scientists' first studies at Frederick. Their approach is to study the pathogen—how it operates, how the disease progresses—and ways to predict its future spread, and countermeasures to control it.

Foreign pathogens are studied under strict quarantine at the Plant Disease Research Laboratory. "To our knowledge, there is nothing else like it," Dr. Kingsolver says in describing the tight containment policies at the Frederick facilities. Specially designed greenhouses permit simultaneous study of up to 10 pathogens, each isolated in a separate greenhouse unit, under virtually foolproof safeguards against escape of the disease organisms.

Safety glass of double-thickness is used in greenhouses. Materials entering or leaving are sterilized by steam or ethylene oxide. Scientists and other workers must shower as they leave the greenhouses, to prevent hitchhicking of exotic organisms to the outside. A shower before entering greenhouses is sometimes required, to protect plants from infection by outside organisms. Special clothes must be worn in these greenhouses and laboratories and, after use, left there for steam sterilizing before laundering.

As an additional precaution, the greenhouses and associated laboratory rooms are operated at an air pressure lower than that of the outside atmosphere. Thus, should any small leaks develop in these facilities air is drawn inward instead of escaping to the outside.

Pathogens in the air are trapped in special filters that capture particles as small as 0.5 micron. Bacteria cannot pass through these filters—it would be like trying to pass a thick telephone book through a keyhole.

Precautions are also taken against escape of pathogens in the Laboratory's waste water. All waste water is flushed through

a special sewer system, which goes through a steam sterilizer before entering the conventional sewage treatment plant.

"No description of this laboratory would be complete without considering the consumer's stake in this research," Dr. Kingsolver points out. Food prices could be expected to increase from crop shortage caused by plant diseases. The Plant Disease Research Laboratory has a vital mission in helping to prevent such shortages—especially in view of the rapidly increasing world population which will require greater food production in the years ahead. □

News

Rural housing loan interest rate lowered □ The interest rate to borrowers on insured housing loans in rural areas by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has been lowered to 8-1/8 percent. Previously the rate was 8-1/2 percent.

The rate will apply to insured loans to families for purchase or improvement of individual homes, and for development of rental housing and improved rural homesite areas. It represents the lowest permissible rate based on a formula for determining minimum interest rates contained in the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

USDA establishes Indian desk □ USDA has established an Indian Desk to help American Indians learn about and utilize USDA services and programs. The Office of Equal Opportunity has been designated as the Indian Desk and a Special Task Force for American Indian Affairs has been created to help in this effort.

The Task Force consists of high-ranking officials from various USDA agencies who will meet periodically to discuss problems involved in making USDA services and programs more readily available to Indians.

The Indian Desk will coordinate all USDA activities involving Indians and see that information about USDA programs is brought to the attention of Indians.

Establishment of the Indian Desk was authorized by Secretary of Agriculture *Earl L. Butz* last November.

The Indian Desk may be reached by contacting *Richard Peer,* Room 4119-A, Auditor's Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone (202) 447-7327.

Life costs more □ Premium rates for regular life insurance under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program increased the first pay period in March. Salary checks received during the week of March 23 were the first to reflect the change. Employee rates were increased from 27.5 to 35.5 cents biweekly per $1,000 of regular insurance. Agency contributions (required by law to be one-half of the aggregate amount withheld from an employee's pay) were increased from 13.75 to 17.75 cents per $1,000 of insurance per biweekly pay period.

Want to learn how Congress works from the inside out? □ The USDA Office of Personnel advises that April 25 is the deadline for agencies to nominate employees for the 1975 Fellowships in Congressional Operations.

Congressional fellows spend 9 months, beginning in mid-November, working on the staffs of representatives, senators, and congressional committees. An intensive orientation program and weekly seminars throughout the fellowship year give participants background in political science.

A program for Foreign Affairs Fellows operates simultaneously with the program for Fellowships in Congressional Operations.

Employees interested in either program should see their agency training officer as soon as possible for more information.

Multilateral trade negotiations are crucial □ In a recent memorandum to agency heads, *Secretary Butz* noted that the multilateral trade negotiations scheduled to open soon in Geneva, Switzerland, will do much to shape the future for U.S. agriculture. The outcome of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) negotiations, he said, will be crucial to our market-oriented agricultural system. American farmers look to foreign markets as an outlet for over one-fourth of their harvested acreage and last year tapped foreign markets for 40 percent of their cash receipts from crops.

The Secretary pointed out that protectionist sentiment is on the rise in the current international climate. "I view the forthcoming negotiations as the best chance we have to reverse this trend," he said, "to reduce or eliminate trade barriers which, until the unusual conditions of the recent past, have kept our farmers from full production and from the income benefits that lie in the international market."

If you're a retiree, survival now pays □ Under the provisions of a law signed by President Ford last fall, a Federal Civil Service annuitant who has had his or her annuity reduced in order to provide survivor coverage will have the reduced amount restored if the marriage ends by death, divorce, or annulment.

The annuity will be recomputed to eliminate the reduction beginning with the month following the month in which the marriage was dissolved. The new law applies to any Federal Civil Service annuity regardless of its commencing date, but no increase in any annuity may be paid for any month prior to November 1974.

The amount an annuity had been reduced and the amount that would therefore be restored to eligible annuitants would vary according to the amount of annuity at the time of retirement, the date of retirement, and cost-of-living increases effective on or after that date.

Since October 11, 1962, retiring employees who elected a survivor benefit have had their annuities reduced by 2.5 percent of the first $3,600 of pension plus 10 percent of any amount in excess of $3,600. A greater reduction in annuity was applied in the case of individuals who retired between January 1, 1940, and October 10, 1962.

Should an annuitant remarry after his or her annuity has been restored under the law, the annuity will be reduced by the same percentage that was in effect at the time of the employee's retirement. The new wife or husband will be qualified for the same survivor protection as the former spouse after the marriage has been in effect for 1 year, or after a child is born of the marriage—whichever occurs first.

Finland is free □ USDA has recognized Finland as free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and rinderpest, thus clearing the way for imports of cloven-hooved livestock into the United States from that country.

Federal law prohibits the direct importation of domestic swine and ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats and similar animals) from countries where FMD and rinderpest are declared to exist by USDA. This includes much of Europe and all countries in South America, Africa and continental Asia.

FMD and rinderpest are highly contagious foreign animal diseases that drastically increase livestock production costs wherever they occur. Neither disease is a threat to human health. However, elimination of an outbreak introduced into the United States would require destruction of all infected and exposed animals. The diseases are spread to healthy livestock by direct contact with infected or exposed animals, by means of contaminated clothing or equipment, or by feeding infected meat scraps to swine.

Sewage, by any other name, never smelled so sweet □ USDA scientists have developed an aeration method of composting raw sewage sludge that reduced offensive odors and eliminated disease-causing organisms. Their work was done in cooperation with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), and

the District of Columbia Department of Environmental Services.

Controlled aeration of the sludge is the key. *Dr. Eliot Epstein,* soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service and ARS agricultural engineer *George B. Willson* said that pulling air through a pile of sludge from beneath brings interior temperature up from the minimum of 130 degrees Fahrenheit to as high as 185 degrees Fahrenheit.

Woodchips are mixed with the sludge at a ratio of three parts chips to one part sludge before composting to improve draft through the pile.

Each pile is then covered with a blanket of pre-dried screened sludge compost which prevents odors from escaping to the atmosphere. The cover of screened compost is also an insulating layer providing more uniform temperature distribution throughout the pile.

Previous studies by ARS microbiologist *Dr. Wylie D. Burge* showed that temperatures obtained by this composting technique (130-185 degrees Fahrenheit) kill most human pathogens. Additional studies are being conducted on virus and bacterial survival during composting.

Tricking senorita mosquito into stopping malaria □ A team of USDA scientists in El Salvador is launching a program of malaria mosquito control with the help of sterile male mosquitoes.

Malaria is still one of the most serious diseases in the world. It is even increasing in severity in some areas where it was once controlled. Insect resistance to pesticides and higher costs of pesticides are some of the factors responsible for the current rise.

The control technique is to release sterile males into the natural population and in such large numbers that they, and not normal males, will mate with a large proportion of the females. If the area covered is large enough or isolated to keep immigration of fertile insects at a minimum, no progeny develop.

Male mosquitoes pose no annoyance or threat since they do not bite or transmit diseases to people.

This project is being conducted by USDA's Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance of El Salvador and the Center for Disease Control of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Constructive ideas for the environment □ What to do—and what not to do—to insure environmental protection on construction sites is the theme of a new publication of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Environmental Do's and Don'ts on Construction Sites.*

Construction can damage soil, water, and other resources. The new brochure describes the many conservation and site management practices that can reduce or eliminate environmental hazards. Often they are at little or no extra cost to the contractor.

Single copies of *Environmental Do's and Don'ts on Construction Sites* (MP 1291) are available from the USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C., 20250. Additional copies are available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20404, at 65 cents a copy.

Rate this film "A" □ *Behind the Grade Mark,* a 16-mm color film on grading of canned and frozen fruits and vegetables has been released by USDA.

The film takes viewers behind the scenes of the processing industry to show how fruits and vegetables are canned and frozen and the role of USDA's voluntary grading services in the marketing of these products. *Behind the Grade Mark* shows what USDA graders do to make sure a product merits that mark and what USDA grading and the U.S. grades mean to consumers.

The 20-minute film can be purchased for $107 a print, or borrowed. To purchase the film write to USDA Motion Picture Division, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington D.C. 20250. To borrow the film, write to Chief, Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, USDA - AMS, Washington D.C. 20250. The film is also available for loan at AMS Information offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York, and San Francisco and at most land-grant college film libraries.

★★★★★

Tips for the range boss

Are you the boss of the kitchen range? With energy supplies dwindling and prices rising, it's more important than ever to conserve energy by being a good oven manger. Some suggestions from the USDA Extension Service include:

□ Don't preheat your oven unless you are baking foods that contain baking powder—cakes, biscuits, and cookies, for example.

□ When using glass or glass ceramic baking dishes, lower oven heat by 25 degrees.

□ Keep your oven door closed while the heat's on. Don't constantly "peek" at foods.

□ If you have an electric range, you can turn the oven off during the last 5 minutes of baking time. Reserved oven heat will continue to bake your food.

□ Use your oven to capacity. Prepare several items at a time.

Because of fuel scarcities and the pressures of rising prices, some families are using gas or electric ranges to heat a room. This is not an efficient way to use a range. Also, the additional cost on utility bills is sizable. And, you run the risk of expensive damage to both the range and your home.

savenergy

People

They're outstanding □ Two USDA employees were among the ten outstanding young men and women in the Federal Government to receive the 1975 Arthur S. Flemming Awards.

Dr. Ivan W. Kirk, an agricultural engineer with the Agricultural Research Service in Las Cruces, N.M., has compiled a record unmatched by many scientists throughout a life-time. At 38 he is leader of a research program charged with developing better ways of ginning cotton, one of this country's major crops. Dr. Kirk's most outstanding research achievement has been his role in the development of a new machine for harvesting cotton planted in narrow rows. This has increased yields, decreased produced costs, and produces clean cotton of high quality.

Dr. Donald H. Marx, a plant pathologist with the Forest Service in Athens, Ga., has found ways to speed the revegetation of distrubed areas such as strip mine spoils by using the symbiotic relationship between soil fungi and the feeder roots of forest trees. He has developed a method for introducing the highly beneficial *Pisolithus tinctorous* onto the roots of pine seedlings in tree nurseries. Seedlings treated in this manner perform better in the nursery, and preliminary results indicate dramatic improvements in survival and growth after planting on mine spoils.

Hamil receives honor □ *David A. Hamil,* Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, recently received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The silver plaque was awarded as an expression of gratitude and in recognition of his more than 10 years of service as REA administrator.

Comments

Your Editor is the Chintzy One, Not Civil Service

In the January 22 issue of *USDA*, the wrong figures were used for either benefits resulting from employee suggestions and awards, or the computer goofed. With the figures given, only 0.7¢ was paid out of each $1.00 of tangible benefits, rather than 7.0¢ - an error of 100X magnitude. I would be interested in knowing whether only 0.07¢ was paid out, or whether more than the $2.9 million in awards was paid.

V.M.K., ARS
Brookings, S.D.

Not only did I get letters, I got lots and lots of phone calls on this one! When periods become decimal points, this wordmonger begins to dither. And I dithered to the tune about $295 million on the set of statistics that V.M.K. wrote about.

In the January 22 issue, I said that the Government had paid out about $2.9 million in awards for suggestions and special achievements that had resulted in tangible benefits of over $4 billion. What I meant to say was that the Government has paid out about $298 million. Mea culpa!

If you want to run the figures through your calculator again, the tangible benefits since the Incentive Awards Program began in 1954 have amounted to $3,994,337,603 and the awards for suggestions and special achievements have amounted to $297,760,412.

Now I'd better proofread this v-e-r-y carefully or you sharp-eyed statistics sticklers will be after me again!

And Now For A Short Lesson in Geography

Humble pie seems to be the order of the day as far as USDA's January 22 issue is concerned. Dr. T. Kent Kirk, **subject of our People story, called to point out that Finland is a part of Scandinavia, not separate from it as the wording in the story might lead one to believe.**

After I try to requisition a calculator, I'll go after a globe.

Person to Person

White pine blister rust, a devastating forest disease, is no respecter of boundaries, whether they be county lines, state lines, or national boundaries.

Ed. F. Wicker, plant pathologist at the Forest Service's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Moscow, Id., knows this only too well. The 16-year Forest Service veteran has spent the last 12 years looking for ways to check and control the destruction caused by the fungal disease. His search has taken him from the forests of our own Northwest to England, Yugoslavia, and 15 other European countries.

Now a recognized world authority on white pine blister rust, Wicker's most recent thrust against the forest disease was in Japan. He was one of seven U.S. scientists selected from 103 applicants to work in Japan in a program administered by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Wicker points out that while American foresters have been familiar with the problem of blister rust for over 50 years, it is relatively new to Japanese foresters. He spent 6 months with the Japanese Forest Experiment Station at Sapporo, Japan, on the island of Hokkaido where Japanese foresters are especially concerned about 44,000 acres of eastern white pine plantations. Only five acres are now infected with blister rust, but a widespread infection could eliminate the productive plantations.

Wicker advised the Japanese to establish additional eastern white pine plantations on Hokkaido where the rust disease's alternate hosts do not grow within 3-1/2 to 5 miles. He also suggested plantings of spruce and fir to reduce the risk of blister rust and winter injury.

The cooperative effort has not ended with Wicker's return to this country. U.S. white pines are now being tested at Sapporo for resistance to the Japanese strains of blister rust. Wicker is also exploring the possibility of using Japanese bacterial and fungal cultures which he collected on his travels throughout Hokkaido as control agents for blister rust in western white pine trees in the United States. The research trade could eventually result in new ways of controlling blister rust destruction on both sides of the Pacific, with the promise of more reliable timber supplies for both nations. □

Ed Wicker *examines a recent blister rust infection at Nakashibetsu, Hokkaido.*

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.

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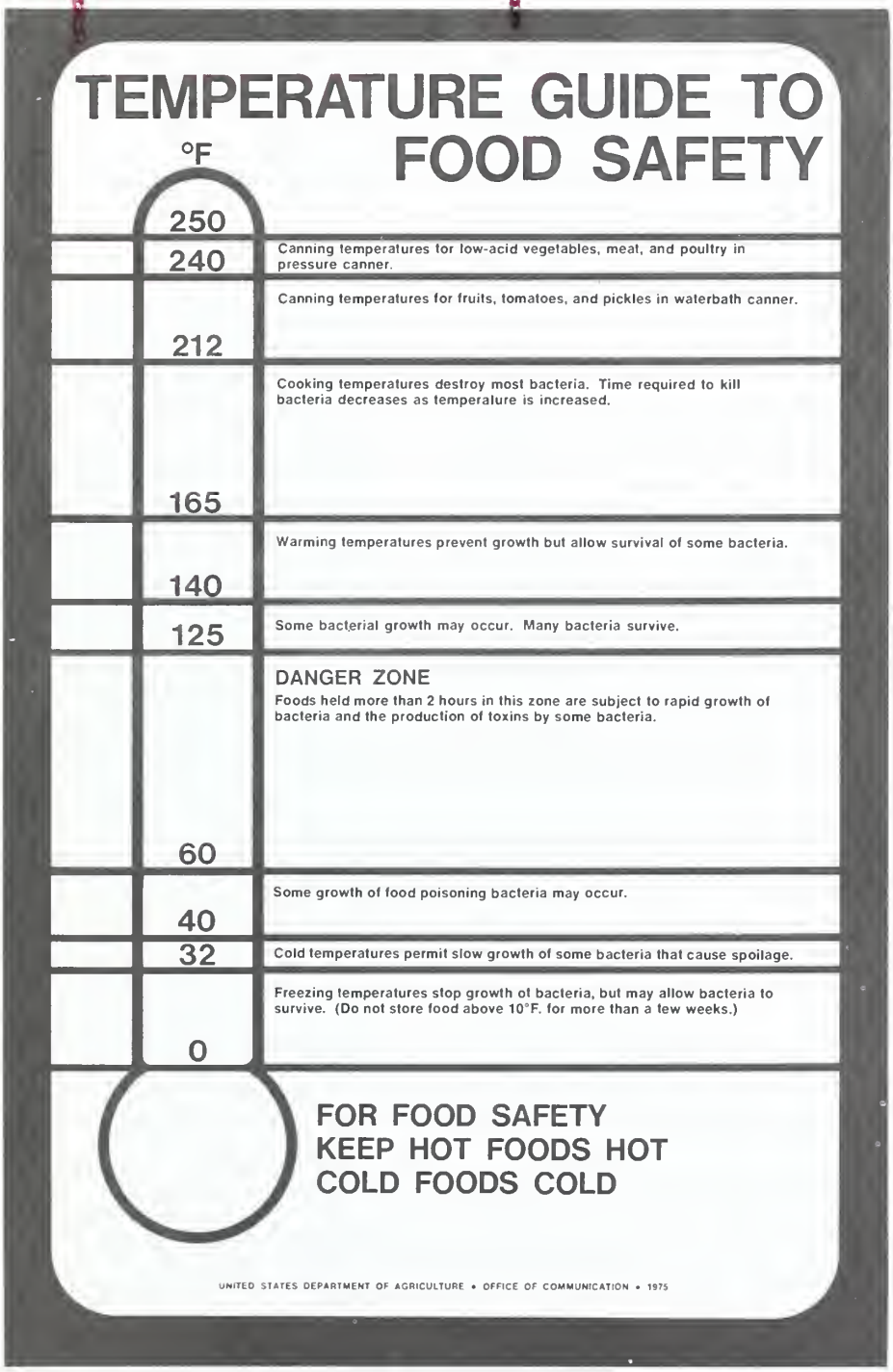
USDA Warns Consumers About Using Improper Home Canning Techniques



As part of its education campaign on safe home canning, USDA is distributing this temperature guide.

Home canning requires the highest temperatures in order to destroy bacteria and prevent their growth.

More and more consumers are turning to home gardens and the pleasures of home-grown fruits and vegetables. Last year, an estimated 6 million Americans tried their hand at home gardening for the first time. Economic uncertainty and the rising unemployment rate leads USDA to believe that this year will show another increase in the crop of new home gardeners.

When home-grown produce can't be eaten or given away as it ripens, the gardener often turns to canning. Home canning provides safe, inexpensive, quality products—but only if the fruits and vegetables have been carefully selected and properly processed.

Improper canning may result in botulism, a food poisoning which may cause death. In 1974, there were 20 outbreaks of foodborne botulism involving 30 persons—the largest number since 1935. Of the 30 cases, seven died—five from home-canned foods. As a result, USDA is launching a massive information/education campaign to alert consumers to the dangers of improper home canning procedures.

Botulism is caused by the toxin formed during the growth of the bacteria, *Clostridium botulinum*. This may result from improper processing which may be avoided by following these guidelines:

- ☐ **DON'T TAKE SHORTCUTS OR EXPERIMENT IN HOME CANNING.** Use only tested, currently approved methods. Such as those described in USDA's *Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables.*
- ☐ **USE ONLY JARS, CANS AND LIDS MADE ESPECIALLY FOR HOME CANNING.** Never use ordinary jars such as mayonnaise or coffee jars.
- ☐ **DO NOT REUSE SEALING LIDS.** The rubber ring deteriorates easily and prevents a tight seal. Get new rings for one-piece lids and new metal lids with sealing compound for two-piece lids.
- ☐ **DO NOT USE OVERRIPE FOOD.** Products change in chemical com-

position with age and lose acidity. Make sure the food is of good quality, with no bruises or soft spots.

☐ **DO NOT OVERPACK FOODS.** Trying to get too much food into one jar may result in under-processing and spoilage.

☐ **FOLLOW EXACTLY THE TIME AND TEMPERATURE SPECIFICATIONS FOR FOODS AND CONTAINER SIZES LISTED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS.** Adjust processing times according to altitude.

☐ **TEST THE SEAL ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS.**

☐ **DO NOT USE CANNED FOODS SHOWING SIGNS OF SPOILAGE.** Watch for bulging lids, leaks, off-odors, or mold. If in doubt, *don't taste*. Destroy out of reach of children and pets.

☐ **BOIL HOME-CANNED VEGETABLES, COVERED, FOR AT LEAST 10 MINUTES BEFORE SERVING.**

☐ **WITH TOMATOES, FOLLOW ESTABLISHED, RECOMENDED CANNING PROCEDURES CLOSELY.** A recent problem in home canning of tomatoes is the variation in their acidity, which affects the quality and safety of the canned product. The problem is associated with a few tomato varieties and to some extent the climate and soil in which they are grown. Weak acidity may permit the growth of botulism. You may wish to consult with specialists in your local community, such as the county Extension agent, as to the tomatoes best-suited to your area and the best canning recommendations for them.

☐ **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOME CANNING AND FOOD SAFETY, CONTACT THE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE OR THE HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE EXPERIMENT STATION OR STATE UNIVERSITY IN YOUR AREA.**

More information on home vegetable gardening, home canning, and home freezing is available in a number of USDA publications which can be purchased from:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Use the coupon accompanying this article, or order publications by number and name on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to include a check or money order in the exact amount of your order. A self-addressed mailing label will speed receipt of your publications.

If you share this copy of *USDA* with others, please copy the coupon or make sure that all routing is complete before clipping it. ☐

PUBLICATIONS ON HOME GARDENING, CANNING, AND FREEZING

The following publications may be purchased from:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Number	Name	Price
☐ G 8	Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables	35 cents
☐ G 10	Home Freezing of Fruits and Vegetables	55 cents
☐ G 40	Freezing Combination Main Dishes	30 cents
☐ G 56	How to Make Jellies, Jams and Preserves at Home	40 cents
☐ G 69	Home Care of Purchased Frozen Foods	25 cents
☐ G 78	Storing Perishable Foods in the Home	25 cents
☐ G 92	Making Pickles and Relishes at Home	45 cents
☐ G 93	Freezing Meat and Fish in the Home	35 cents
☐ G 106	Home Canning of Meat and Poultry	30 cents
☐ L 321	What To Do When Your Home Freezer Stops	25 cents
☐ G 202	Growing Vegetables in the Home Garden	80 cents
☐ G 163	Minigardens for Vegetables	30 cents
☐ G 180	Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden	25 cents
☐ F 2239	Growing Cauliflower and Broccoli	25 cents
☐ L 407	Dwarf Fruit Trees: Selection and Care	25 cents
☐ F 2160	Growing Blackberries	30 cents
☐ F 2165	Growing Raspberries	25 cents

I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount of $_____ to cover the cost of the publications checked above. Please send to:

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Apt. No. or P.O. Box _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

News

Home Canning: Do It Safely ☐ In conjunction with its campaign to inform consumers about safe methods of home canning, USDA has released a new slide set and filmstrip.

Home Canning: Do It Safely gives step-by-step procedures for home canning of fruits and vegetables. The presentation contains about 75 frames, most of them in full color, showing various stages of the home canning process. It comes complete with a soundtrack on cassette and two copies of an illustrated narrative guide.

Order the slide set for $18.50 from Photography Division, USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for $11.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011.

Plants take care of their own ☐ Many plants produce natural compounds which can help man control insects. What researchers found in testing nearly 1,500 plants for such compounds is reviewed in a new handbook issued by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

One study showed, for example, that a substance extracted from the leaves of chinaberry trees kills corn earworms and fall armyworms.

Another study found that exposure to powdered garlic killed several species of ticks in less than 4 minutes. Other researchers found that compounds from cashew nutshells killed mosquito larvae, grain weevils, and caterpillars.

Altogether, more than 500 studies conducted between 1954 and 1971 are reviewed. The handbook, intended primarily as a scientific reference source, was prepared by *Martin Jacobson*, Chief of the Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory at the Agricultural Research Service's Beltsville Agri-

cultural Research Center in Maryland. Copies of *Insecticides from Plants*, Agricultural Handbook 461, are available for $2 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

There were fewer moth-eaten trees in 1974 □ The number of leaf-eating gypsy moths found outside the infested portions of the Northeast dropped substantially last year. About 3,400 male moths were caught in 1973 compared to 410 trapped in 17 states in 1974.

"Correspondingly, defoliation was down last year, too," said *T.G. Darling*, acting deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "However, the pest is as much of a problem as ever because gypsy moth outbreaks are not always predictable and the population of insects could break out in explosive proportions again this summer."

Moth finds result mainly from gypsy moths hitchhiking on recreational vehicles moving from infested to uninfested areas. Fortunately, moth colonization usually does not occur because all the biological factors necessary for successful establishment are lacking.

APHIS officials said fewer moths were caught this year due to a combination of natural factors and control treatments. An unusually wet, cold June aided in the development of wilt disease—a virus that attacks gypsy moth caterpillars. Also, the USDA-state parasite rearing and release program helped reduce gypsy moth populations.

The APHIS gypsy moth trapping program is conducted in cooperation with state and federal agricultural agencies and the National Campers and Hikers Association (NCHA). These groups placed about 70,000 traps nationwide to detect gypsy moth spread. The sticky traps are baited with an artificial sex lure that attracts male moths. Trapping results provide information for future quarantine, survey and control efforts.

The gypsy moth is a foreign pest accidently introduced into this country in 1869. The caterpillars eat leaves of trees, which become weakened and may even die. Hardwoods may die after severe successive defoliations. Evergreens may die after one defoliation.

Daily food guide published in Spanish □ A daily food guide, written in Spanish has been revised and published by USDA to help bring nutrition information to those whose principal language is Spanish.

Una Guia Diaria Para Comer Bien (FNS-13S) is a one-page flyer which illustrates the four basic food groups: milk; vegetables and fruits; meat; and, bread and cereals. The flyer, a guide to good nutrition, lists daily recommended servings from the four food groups for children and adults.

Published by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and Agricultural Research Service, the guide is available for 25¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Aggies increase □ College of agriculture enrollment at land-grant universities more than doubled between 1963 and 1973—increasing from 34,952 to 72,644 students.

FmHA gives young people lots of credit □ A high school student in Vermont operates his own trash removal business; a 12-year-old Mississippi boy is raising five head of cattle which he will fatten for market and profit; a 15-year-old girl sells leather crafts through her own business establishment, a roadside stand near her Kansas home. These young people are in business for themselves thanks to the Youth Project Loan Program. The federal credit program, operated by USDA's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), helps young people establish and operate business enterprises, giving them opportunity to learn financial responsibility—and earn a profit—through practical experience. Since its inception in September 1973, the program has made loans totaling more than $17 million to some 5500 young people, mostly for farm related enterprises. Participants in the program must be under 21 years old, live in the open country or in towns of less than 10,000 population, and be unable to obtain financing from other sources. Only projects of modest size can be financed and the project must be part of an organized and supervised program. Too, the business project must be planned to produce sufficient income to repay the loan. Details on the loan program may be obtained from the Farmers Home Administration county supervisor, usually located in the county seat, or from Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.

Their credit is good □ Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has made rural housing loans totaling better than $10 billion since 1950 with write-off losses to date of less than 1/5th of one percent. FmHA makes housing loans to low and medium income rural families when credit is not available elsewhere.

The rural and smalltown comeback □ Instead of country folks swarming to the cities as they have for 50 years, people are beginning to head for the country.

One reason is that more jobs are opening up in and around small towns, giving them a degree of prosperity they haven't had in a long time.

Another reason is that people are changing their minds about where they want to live.

But it's the development of job opportunities that makes it possible for young and old people alike, who do not want to move to cities, to live closer to home.

This turnaround provides smalltown leaders an unusual opportunity and a stimulating challenge, according to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture *Will Erwin*.

"If you, or your community, haven't enough people or money to have some of the things that you want to give you a better life, this switch ought to help the situation.

"Besides, as manufacturers continue to place plants in and around rural towns, the benefits will spread to other areas.

"Another thing, farms aren't disappearing the way they were at one time. In the 1960's America was losing better than 100,000 farms a year. Now the loss is cut to a small fraction of that number.

"Our farm population has largely stabilized at near the 9-1/2 million mark. The long decline from 30-1/2 million farm people in 1940 has just about stopped. That's another good sign," Erwin points out.

Crop losses to hail average 2¼ percent □ U.S. farmers lost an average of 2¼ percent of the annual value of 20 basic crops because of hail during a 5-year study period.

In a recent report, USDA's Economic Research Service estimates 1973 hail loss for those 20 crops at $685 million.

Wheat accounted for a fourth of U.S. crop hail loss; corn for grain, over 18 percent; soybeans, over 13 percent; and cotton, over 10 percent.

Since hail usually occurs in localized areas, its impact on individual farmers' crops can be devastating. Some areas are more likely to experience hailstorms than others, causing crop hail damage and insurance premiums to vary widely by location.

People

Pioneer researchers □ *Carroll B. Williams, Jr.*, has been named head of a pioneering research unit to control and combat forest insects and diseases. Williams' job will be to assess the impact that insects and diseases have on all forest values. Dr. Williams is a research entomologist at the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Berkeley, Calif.

Dr. B. Francis Kukachka, world-renowned authority on wood identification, has also been granted pioneering status in order to conduct research on

new methods for identifying wood. He will also describe the numerous wood identification techniques he has developed or used and publish these to aid future researchers.

Pioneering unit charters provide funds and freedom from other tasks so research leaders can preserve their ideas and knowledge for posterity and science. The charters are rare. Only eight such units are now operating in the entire Forest Service staff of over 950 established research scientists.

Regional general counsel ☐ *Jack H. Hanthorn* was recently sworn in as USDA's regional general counsel for six western states. Hanthorn's office will provide legal guidance for USDA offices in Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota. He succeeds *John Banks* who retired.

Comments

Coneflower Clarification

In *USDA* of January 22, 1975, there is a very interesting article about coneflowers. The title of this note is *Pest Solution Rooted in the Common Coneflower.*

There are three genera that I know about that are sometimes given the common name coneflower. Perhaps you could inform me as to which genus and species this article is referring.

T.A.B., SCS
Jackson, Miss.

Echinacea angustifolia **DC (family Compositae) is the plant in question. The research on the extracts of this plant's roots and their effects was reported at a recent American Chemical Society meeting by** *Martin Jacobson, Robert E. Redfern,* **and** *Denys J. Voaden* **of the Agricultural Environmental Quality Institute, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Md. 20705.**

Person to Person

A *lady* timber beast?

Time was, not so long ago, when you never heard about the species. In fact, it didn't even exist. But the women's movement has helped spawn a number of "new" careers for the female sex. Forestry is one of them.

Marilyn Cothran is one of about a dozen women in the Forest Service now working as timber appraisers. Her evolution from a resource clerk to a timber appraisal specialist began about 5 years ago. At that time, the allowable cut on the Klamath National Forest where Marilyn works was large and appraisal activity was high. Marilyn had the job of typing timber sales appraisals, prospectuses, and timber sale contracts.

As they all do, the job had its frustrations. The detailed appraisal summary forms often had to be typed over and over when mathematical errors kept turning up. To reduce the frustration level, Marilyn started checking the arithmetic on appraisal calculations and road cost estimates. This led to pertinent questions about appraisal cost allowances, and about inconsistencies among the many appraisals pouring in from the ranger districts.

Her supervisors recognized they had more than a resource clerk here. And a bit of natural selection took place. Marilyn found herself assigned to review all timber sale appraisals.

To broaden her knowledge, Marilyn attended an appraisal workshop in San Francisco, accompanied engineers into the field, and was introduced to the finer points of Douglas fir at a log-grading school. Terms such as end sections, overside drains, and inlet assemblies took on more meaning.

Last July, Marilyn left her job in the resource section of the business management organization and began her career as a timber appraisal specialist—referred to by those in the trade as "timber beasts."

Marilyn plans to continue her formal education about modern logging practices. But what may turn out to be the best investment in her new career is a pair of stout hiking boots. Indications are that she'll be leaving her desk to spend much of the coming field season out there in the woods where the timber sale action is.

After all, how did you think they got to be called timber beasts?

Have no fear if you meet this timber beast in the forest. She's Marilyn Cothran, *timber appraisal specialist on the Klamath National Forest in Yreka, Calif. The species is not known to attack humans or terrorize children. They are, however, death on calculators.*

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor

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'USDA'

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April 30, 1975

Hands-Off Harvesting

Man is not entirely out of the picture. But machines are now harvesting more and more of our Nation's perishable agricultural crops.

Not too long ago in agricultural history, it looked as though expensive hand labor requirements would soon price some crops out of the market. Northern areas had difficulty attracting sufficient labor to pick crops such as cherries. And seasonal laborers were none too keen about cold falls when they might find themselves knocking snow off apples before picking them. Cucumbers for pickles were even considered an "endangered" crop because of hand labor shortages.

But the cuke is staging a comeback, thanks to the introduction of mechanical harvesters. These machines are also keeping other perishable commodities such as cherries, juice grapes, blueberries, and tomatoes from being priced out of the marketplace.

Mechanical systems for handling these crops have been developed over the past 15 years by a team of engineers and scientists in East Lansing, Mich. Labor shortages were the primary impetus for their development. But the team was after more than a machine that could pick. It was aiming for harvesters that would not injure plants and bushes, that would pick a crop with minimal damage to it, and that would leave the least amount of "trash" in the harvested product.

Does mechanical harvesting mean lower quality produce? Not so, say the developers of the systems. The aim is to meet the highest possible quality standards for the crop. As horticulturists and plant breeders strive to find better strains of plants, the ease with which these new varieties can be mechanically harvested will, no doubt, be taken into consideration. But it is not likely to become the major goal. Taste, texture, resistance to disease and pests, yields, adaptation to various growing conditions, and many other factors are too important to take a back seat to ease of harvesting when a new variety is developed. Then, too, many of the new systems have been designed for perennial crops, such as fruits. It would take several years to switch an orchard over to a new variety. The grower is interested in harvesting what he has. So the systems must be adapted to the plants, not the plants to the system.

The research team working on mechanical harvesting currently includes agricultural engineers *Jordan H. Levin*, *Bernard R. Tennes*, and *L. Burton* of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Levin received the Department's Distinguished Service Award in 1974 for his contributions to the development of mechanical harvesters.

These men work in association with agricultural engineers, horticulturists, and food scientists of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station in East Lansing, and with biochemists at ARS's Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia, Pa. Research progress and adoption of new ideas has been speeded by close cooperation of growers and processors. Their success means that, consumers will continue to find ample supplies of perishable foods in their markets. □

HOW SWEET IT IS

The Story of How the Mechanical Cherry (Picker) Is Fighting the High Cost of Harvesting

LEFT

The shortage of hand labor, such as this worker picking cherries, has been a major reason for the development and adoption of mechanical harvesters. USDA scientists and engineers have been intensely involved in the development of a mechanical harvesting-bulk handling system for cherries.

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Continued on page 2

How Sweet It Is (con't)

RIGHT

Several days before harvest, cherry trees are sprayed with ethephon, a chemical that loosens the cherries and reduces the shaking needed for the fruit to fall from the trees (ethephon breaks down into ethylene—a natural gas given off by ripening fruits and vegetables).

LEFT

Shaking? That's right! The mechanical harvester grabs the cherry tree by its trunk and shakes the fruit onto the "wings" of a sloping-surface harvester. The harvester's two sections move independently and join on each tree. An inclined conveyor moves the fruit to a plastic-lined pallet box that has been partially filled with water to reduce impact and handling damage. The harvester can shake fruit from a tree in just 15 seconds.

BELOW

USDA agricultural engineers Bernard Tennes *(left) and* Jordan Levin *inspect mechanically harvested sweet cherries destined for the fresh fruit market. Initially, mechanical harvesting was used to bring in crops intended for processing. As the systems are refined and growers become more experienced at using them, fruits and vegetables for the fresh market are also being machine-picked.*

LEFT

A grower looks on as a processor's agent measures cherries by volume in a calibrated pallet tank. Buying by units of volume is as accurate as buying by unit of weight and the cherries remain in water. This avoids the risk of damage during handling. Volume unit buying is a further development of bulk handling made necessary by mechanical harvesting.

News

If you think your food bills are high, take a look at this one □ In fiscal year 1975, USDA's food assistance programs will cost at least $5.8 billion—that's about two-thirds of the Department's total budget.

This figure came to light in recent testimony by Secretary Butz before the Subcommittee on Agriculture of the House Appropriations Committee. The Secretary told the Subcommittee that any attempt to reduce USDA expenditures means taking action on the food assistance programs, which include the Food Stamp Program, School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk and Special Supplementary Food Programs. "We must," he told the congressmen, "get the Federal budget under control and reduce its inflationary impact."

Veterans hiring □ In the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Congress called upon the Federal establishment to promote employment and job advancement opportunities for qualified veterans of the Vietnam era and for disabled veterans.

Secretary Butz recently stated that he is in complete support of this policy and asked agency heads to reaffirm their interest in assisting these veterans in finding jobs. He also asked that Coordinators for Selective Placement be assigned in each agency with the responsibility for managing the action program plan for disabled vets.

Farm borrowing slows down □ American farmers and their cooperatives continued to borrow from the Farm Credit System last year, but at a more moderate pace than in 1973.

Figures released by the Farm Credit Administration show loans made by the System totaling $27.5 billion last year, a 16.5 percent increase from the $23.6 billion made during 1973. This is in contrast to a 40.8 percent jump in 1973 over the preceding year.

W. M. Harding, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, attributed the moderating of loan demand to a more cautious attitude among farmers last year compared to the record year of 1973. That year pent-up demand caused heavy investments by producers in equipment as well as land. He noted that if inflation were discounted, the rise in the System's loan volume last year would have been substantially more modest.

As American as steak and kidneyypie □ After 20 years, U.S. pork is finding its way back into that mainstay of the British table—steak and kidney pie.

Britian recently lifted a ban that has kept U.S. pork and pork products out of British markets for the past 20 years. Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said the ban was lifted because no case of hog cholera has been reported in the 50 States during the past 12 months. While APHIS has designated all 50 States and Puerto Rico "hog cholera-free," the disease will not be declared eradicated until 18 months after the last outbreak.

Opening of the export market is one advantage of the eradication program. When the program started in 1962, government officials told producers that in addition to opening lucrative export markets, the program would result in fewer death losses, and the elimination of vaccination costs.

Before the eradication program, hog cholera cost U.S. producers over $50 million a year. Vaccination costs were eliminated in mid-1969. As for exports, Britain alone has imported $39 million-worth of pork and pork products annually from other nations.

Lend me your ear □ Where do you go to sound off if you're dissatisfied with a food purchase?

A national survey by USDA's Economic Research Service on consumer satisfaction with food and the stores they buy it from turned up an interesting paradox.

Of those who found fault with a specific food item, only 7 percent actually complained to the manufacturer. This surprised pollsters, since an earlier survey revealed that consumers consider writing to manufacturers and talking with store managers to be the two most effective ways of settling differences.

Even fewer dissatisfied consumers—3 percent—complained to public officials or consumer protection agencies. They were more likely to protest to food store management (50 percent) or participate in boycotts against manufacturers or food stores (12 percent).

But an overwhelming majority of dissatisfied customers simply complained to friends and relatives. The implication is that letters on file with food manufacturers and public officials don't begin to measure the extent of consumer unrest.

Consumers were generally satisfied with the food they buy and the stores where they buy it. Two of every three of the survey's 1,831 respondents said they are always or almost always satisfied with food products they buy for their households. Some 30 percent expressed reservations, but only 4 percent claimed they are rarely or never satisfied.

An even larger share—70 percent—reported they are just about always satisfied with food stores in general. This high level of consumer approval broke fairly evenly across regions and demographic groups.

Comments

APHIS Has No Business on the Racetrack

I just read the article on the thermograph machine in the Jan. 8, 1975, issue.

From my knowledge, the abuse common in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is minor compared to the abuse horses suffer on and around race tracks. Much of this abuse comes from racing young horses and breaking their legs down. Can you tell me if there is any thing being done to stop this abuse? My personal feeling is that no horse should be raced until it is at least 36 months old.

I know this is big business and would be hard to control but I think it should be done.

W.J.R., FS
Roseburg, Ore.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports that many people, including members of the veterinary profession, share W.J.R.'s concern about reported cruel and inhuman treatment of race horses and also vigorously oppose the racing of two-year-old horses. However, there aren't any laws to the agency's knowledge that apply to the problem.

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for administering the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 and the Horse Protection Act of 1970. The Animal Welfare Act specifically exempts domestic farm animals including horses, and the authority granted under the Horse Protection Act is limited to prohibiting the "soring" of a horse's feet for the purpose of affecting its gait. Therefore, the regulations promulgated under the Act exempt rodeos, trail rides, and events where speed is the primary factor.

APHIS notes that many state and local governments have anticruelty laws on their statute books. Specific acts of cruelty should be reported to state or local law enforcement authorities, or to state and local humane activities.

The agency says that the decision to prohibit the racing of two-year-olds will have to come from the interested horse industry. It doesn't seem likely, they say, that the states or the federal government will get involved in the issue.

People

Selected for executive development □ *Charles P. Teague, Jr.*, deputy regional forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden, Utah, was recently selected to participate in the second year of the Federal Executive Development Program.

Teague is one of 27 career civil servants with outstanding managerial qualifications who will start a 7-week executive education session at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va., in early May. This will be followed by one or more developmental work assignments, tailored to the participants' career goals and their agencies' manpower needs.

The Federal Executive Development Program is sponsored by the Civil Service Commission in collaboration with the Office of Management and Budget. It is designed to prepare Federal managers at the GS-15 level for increased responsibilities in Federal service.

Regional director for ASCS □ *Merrill D. Marxman* was recently named director of the East Central Region for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). The region includes 10 Midwestern and Southern states that lie roughly between the Appalachians and the Mississippi river. Marxman will be headquartered in Washington, D.C. □

Person to Person

"I've never been made to feel that I had less to contribute than anyone else," says *Edward V. Pope*, human relations specialist with the USDA Extension Service.

Pope was recently chosen one of ten Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of the Year by the Civil Service Commission. For more than 10 years he has been a victim of primary lateral sclerosis. He has limited mobility, especially in walking. Speech, balance, coordination, and muscular dexterity are also affected.

Ed is the fourth USDA employee to win the Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee award during the 6 years of the program. He has spent a total of 28 years with the federal government, 19 of them with Extension. Before he came to USDA Extension, he was a child development and family relations specialist with the New York Cooperative Extension Service.

Since Ed Pope joined the USDA Extension Service, the number of family life specialists has increased from 30 employed in 24 states to 88 state and area specialists who work in 45 states and Puerto ico. Ed gives national leadership to the family life program, assisting states in planning and carrying out educational activities that meet the needs of families in today's complex society.

"The need for family life education has never been greater," says Ed Pope. "Our technological developments have created a more impersonal world. This places greater responsibilities on families to provide close relationships."

Tops in priority, according to Pope, is the need to motivate people to improve their family situations. "We must instill a desire for self-improvement," he says. "And we must involve people in their own education. We need to reach people where their ideals are."

Story by *Betty Flemming*, **ES**

RIGHT

Ed Pope's *physical handicaps haven't slowed down the pace of his work. At the office, he gets around with an assist from a motorized, battery-powered "Amigo" cart. At other times, he uses two canes for mobility.*

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.

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PROCUREMENT SECTION
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USDA

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May 28, 1975

The 29th Annual Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony

Fifty-nine different field offices in 19 states and one foreign country were represented when the Department of Agriculture held its 29th Annual Honors Awards Ceremony May 28 on the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.

Eight distinguished service awards went to six individuals, one team, and one group. Superior service awards, 81 in all, went to 78 employees and 11 work units.

USDA employees around the country at all grade levels are eligible for these Department awards. Distinguished service awardees have made notable contributions to agriculture and the public service. Winners of superior service awards are recognized for their valuable service to the Department beyond that ordinarily required.

Commenting on the achievements of this year's winners, Secretary Butz noted, "Government employees have a great incentive to do a good job. We have a tremendous opportunity to contribute directly and materially to society in a way many American workers cannot.

"The food stamp officer who helps the local grocer set up a food stamp program in his store . . . the soil conservationist who helps a local group plan a subdivision . . . the Farmers Home Administration loan officer who sees a family into a new home . . . the Extension worker who trains a nutrition aide so that families in the neighborhood can eat better . . . all of these people can take pride in their work to make their community, their state, their nation a little better place to live in. What greater incentive do we need than to know that the work we're doing is worthwhile, that other people benefit from it?

"It's been my experience," the Secretary emphasized, "that these people we're honoring here today are only the tip of an iceberg. For each one of them, there are hundreds more in Agriculture who feel the same way about doing their best.

"That's why I'm proud to be a part of this Department, and proud of the record of service to our country that we've build over the years."

1975 HONOR AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

J. P. Bolduc
USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Lois A. Simonds
Extension Economist and Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Ohio State University

James C. Thomson
Editor, **Prairie Farmer**

Booker T. Whatley
Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, Tuskegee Institute

Donald E. Wilkinson
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture

Distinguished Service Awards

John R. McGuire, Chief
FS, Washington, D.C.

For distinctive and creative leadership in setting objectives and in planning and administering programs for advancing the management of renewable natural resources of the Nation.

A.J. Graham, Staff Entomologist
APHIS, Mission, Tex.
and
Frank H. Dudley, Biological Technician
APHIS, Mission, Tex.

For developing a meatless diet for mass-producing screwworms which permitted the continuous, economical operation of the screwworm plant since 1962 and made possible the United States-Mexico Screwworm Eradication Program.

Richard E. Bell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs
SEC, Washington, D.C.

For invaluable leadership in developing, directing, and coordinating a wide range of international trade and aid programs and policies during a period of extraordinary stress and change in world agriculture.

Arthur Mead, Assistant Administrator, P. L. 480 Programs
FAS, Washington, D.C.

For exemplary leadership in the administration of programs and policies leading to the expansion of foreign markets for U.S. agricultural commodities through the Public Law 480 Program.

Gilbert H. Wise, Associate Administrator
APHIS, Washington, D.C.

For major contributions to the administration of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service during its formative years; and especially for unequalled dedication, professionalism, and creative leadership which set the standard for management excellence in the new agency.

Ben R. Burmester, Supervisory Research Biologist
ARS, East Lansing, Mich.

For having performed and directed valuable research on virus disease of poultry that has had a great impact on cancer research and has been of tremendous benefit to the poultry industry.

Philip R. Larson, Supervisory Plant Physiologist
FS, Rhinelander, Wisc.

For creatively conducting and systematically pursuing research leading to an entirely new scientific interpretation of wood formation and to recommendations for improving wood quality by forest practices.

Sumter County Rural Development Committee
Livingston, Ala.

For demonstrating that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make important contributions to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern.

Superior Service Awards

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John H. Berry
ERS, Washington, D.C.

Norman D. Houser
ASCS, Minneapolis, Minn.

James J. Naive
ERS, Washington, D.C.

Allen B. Paul
ERS, Washington, D.C.
and
Richard G. Heifner
ERS, Washington, D.C.

Raymond Williams
FCS, Washington, D.C.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Stephen M. Born
ES, Madison, Wis.
and
Douglas A. Yanggen
ES, Madison, Wis.

Raymond T. Diedrick
SCS, St. Paul, Minn.

Thomas F. Fischer
SCS, Alexandria, Minn.

Clarence F. Hedrick
SCS, Twin Falls, Idaho

Martha J. Jones
SCS, Kankakee, Ill.

Edward F. Kerr
FS, Atlanta, Ga.

Allen H. King
SCS, Amarillo, Tex.

J. Vernon Martin
SCS, Columbia, Mo.

Wilson T. Moon
SCS, Des Moines, Iowa

Ellis F. Sedgley
SCS, Denver, Colo.

Stanley R. Simmons
SCS, Fairfield, Iowa

Genie Warren, Jr.
SCS, Alexandria, La.

Bob G. Wells
APHIS, Grand Island, Neb.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Raymundo T. Margo, Jr.
SCS, Alice, Tex.

HEROIC ACTION

Sherman B. Boyce
FS, Provo, Utah
and
Lyle B. Gomm
FS, Provo, Utah

Donglas G. Moring
APHIS, Auburn, Ala.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

David B. Alspach
FNS, Princeton, N.J.

R. Hicks Elmore, Jr.
FNS, Atlanta, Ga.

Glenn Hampton
FS, Pearblossom, Calif.

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

William F. Doering
FAS, Washington, D.C.

Bryant H. Wadsworth
FAS, Tokyo, Japan

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT

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FS, Portland, Ore.

Gerald Y. Duke
ES, Athens, Ga.

Emmett A. Ellington
SCS, Little Rock, Ark.

Hazel E. Fisher
ASCS, Gainesville, Fla.

Jack W. Fowler
FS, Wenatchee, Wash.

Charles A. Jewell
OMF, Washington, D.C.

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SEC, Washington, D.C.

LaDelle H. Ray
OO, Washington, D.C.

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Sandy A. Wilson
ADS, Washington, D.C.

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Irene T. Ferrante
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Bernice K. Freeman
AMS, Chicago, Ill.

Lee A. Hildman
APHIS, Olympia, Wash.

Dewey Jontz
State Department of Agriculture,
Des Moines, Iowa

Roger L. Kerr
AMS, Greeley, Colo.

Robert J. Leverette
AMS, Washington, D.C.
and
Roy D. McDonald
AMS, Atlanta, Ga.

Faith Prior
ES, Burlington, Vt.

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ES, Bastrop, La.

Billy Beach
ES, Vincennes, Ind.

Frank W. Bennett
REA, Washington, D.C.

Ronald Bird
ERS, Washington, D.C.

Charles A. Buchanan
FmHA, Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Thomas A. Dixon
FmHA, Newton, N.C.

Gaston LeBlanc
FmHA, Lafayette, La.

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ES, Blacksburg, Va.
and
Gene McMurtry
ES, Blacksburg, Va.

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FmHA, Merced, Calif.

Neil L. Modin
FmHA, Bismarck, N. Dak.

Don H. Peterson
ES, Washburn, N. Dak.

Anne L. Rehbein
ES, Choteau, Mont.

Herman A. Schafer, Jr.
REA, Washington, D.C.

Donald E. Scruggs
FmHA, Poplarville, Miss.

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ES, Hillsboro, Ore.

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FS, Lakewood, Colo.
and
Richard W. Timus
FS, Bottineau, N. Dak.

Mary S. Peter
ARS, Beltsville, Md.

William R. Phelps
FS, Atlanta, Ga.
and
Peter P. Laird
FS, Asheville, N.C.

Robert R. Alexander
FS, Fort Collins, Colo.
and
John E. Bennett
FS, Denver, Colo.

Walter A. Gentner
ARS, Beltsville, Md.

Joe P. McClure
FS, Asheville, N.C.

Richard F. Keeler
ARS, Logan, Utah

August E. Kehr
ARS, Beltsville, Md.

William E. Larson
ARS, St. Paul, Minn.

Elwyn D. Schall
State Department of Agriculture,
West Lafayette, Ind.

Group Achievement

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Environmental Monitoring Laboratory
APHIS, Gulfport, Miss.

Wabash County Conservation Team
SCS and **ASCS**, Mt. Carmel, Ill.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT

Contract Service Division Group
FCIC, Washington, D.C.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

World Food Situation Team
ERS, Washington, D.C.

Program Integrity Team
OI, San Francisco, Calif.

Sawmill Improvement Program Team
FS, Madison, Wisc.

MARKETING AND CONSUMER SERVICES

State-Federal Compliance Programs Group
APHIS, Washington, D.C.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Boll Weevil Pheromone Development Group
ARS, State College, Miss.

Forest Engineering Laboratory
FS, Houghton, Mich.

Home Care and Maintenance Program Team
ES, College Station, Tex.

Whey-Soy Beverage Team
ARS and **ERS**, Philadelphia, Pa.

People

Tragedy ☐ On April 17, 21-year-old *Roberta Fort* of Trenton, N.J., was found murdered in the Bronx section of New York where she was on assignment as a quality control case analyst for the food stamp program.

Analysts conduct sample checks of individual food stamp cases. They frequently visit homes to interview recipients to verify that they are eligible for stamps, that they're paying the correct amount for the stamps, and that they're receiving the right number of stamps.

Miss Fort joined the Food and Nutrition Service's Northeast Regional Office in June 1974, following her graduation from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture's Office of Investigation, joined New York City homicide detectives in investigating the crime.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE 29TH HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

ADS	Office of Automated Data Systems
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
ASCS	Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service
ERS	Economic Research Service
ES	Extension Service
FCS	Farmer Cooperative Service
FmHA	Farmers Home Administration
FCIC	Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
FS	Forest Service
OI	Office of Investigation
OMF	Office of Management and Finance
OO	Office of Operations
REA	Rural Electrification Administration
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SEC	Office of the Secretary

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PROCUREMENT

'USDA'

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Women In Agriculture

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Three years ago, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring 1975 International Women's Year.

The Year is not merely an extension of the women's liberation movement which has primarily been of, by, and for women in the wealthier developed countries of the world.

IWY's three specific objectives are:

- ☐ to promote equality between men and women;
- ☐ to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of national and international life; and
- ☐ to recognize the contribution of women to the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among nations and to world peace.

There has been wide agreement among groups charged with coordinating IWY efforts that the Year be a time of stock-taking to determine the progress made on the rights and responsibilities of women and on steps which still need to be taken. It should not, however, be merely a time of review or commemoration. It should be a staging time for new programs and ideas which would be set in motion and would carry on well beyond 1975.

In the United States, the U.S. Center for International Women's Year is the clearing house on information on IWY. Their address is: U.S. Center for IWY 1975, 1630 Crescent Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

On the calendar for International Women's Year in the United States, the month of June is devoted to women in farming and natural resources.

That's cause for over 23 percent of the Department's employees to celebrate. And it's cause for 100 percent of them to take a look at where women stand in USDA.

FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Every President since 1940 has issued Executive Orders aimed at eliminating discrimination in Federal employment. The current Equal Employment Opportunity thrust began in 1961 with an executive order that established the concept of "affirmative action."

In 1965, Federal departments were ordered to take specific affirmative steps to assure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, or national origin. Discrimination because of sex was added to that list in 1967. The Federal Women's Program is now one of two special emphasis areas within the Government's overall EEO effort (the other is the program for Americans of Spanish descent).

In 1968, the Department of Agriculture organized its Federal Women's Program. The first FWP coordinator was *Helene Cecil*, an Agricultural Research Service research biologist who served on a part-time basis. Maxine Cade became the Department's first full-time FWP coordinator in 1973. In 1974, *Majory Hart*, a veteran of 12 years with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, took over the title. She heads a committee of 29 Federal Women's Program Coordinators from the USDA agencies. These in turn have field location coordinators stationed around the country.

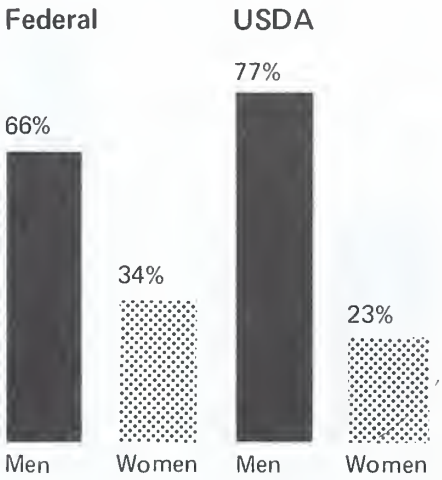
The main thrust of USDA's Federal Women's Program to date has been "consciousness raising," both among women employees and USDA managers. Speakers, publications, exhibits, and "women's weeks" have emphasized the potential individual women can develop in themselves, discussed the roles opening up for women in non-traditional fields, and exploded myths about women workers. FWP Coordinator Hart says training is the next thrust and the Department's Upward Mobility Program shows evidence of this. This spring, some 85 percent of those taking part in the three programs which comprise the USDA Upward Mobility Program were women—91 percent of those who enrolled in and finished the College Study Program were women, 72 percent of those taking part in the Career Opportunities Program are women, and 85 percent of those in Operation Upgrade are women.

WHO NEEDS IT?

Why have women as a group been singled out for a special EEO effort within the Government?

Compared to the total U.S. work force, the Government work population is less female than the national work force and its female workers are more heavily concentrated in clerical and kindred jobs than in the nation as a whole (this latter concentration is partly due to the fact that the Government work force tends to be more white collar than the work force in

Percent of Men and Women Employed by Federal Government and USDA



the nation generally). Also, as one moves up the ladder in pay and job status in Government, the number of women decreases sharply in direct proportion.

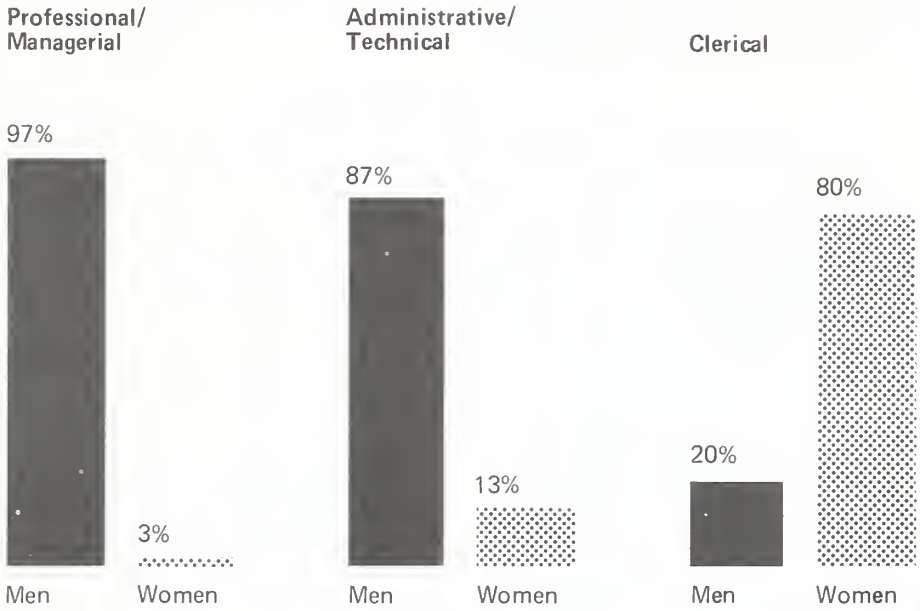
The picture has improved but slightly over the last few years. Women were 33 percent of the total Federal work force in 1970; they were 34 percent in 1973, the last year for which the Civil Service Commission has fully compiled statistics. In 1970, Federal women held 46.1 percent of all jobs at the GS 1-6 level; by 1973 they held 46.6 percent of these slots. Women held 20.7 percent of the jobs at the GS 7-12 level in 1970; that rose to 23.4 percent by 1973. In 1970 women were in 3.9 percent of the positions at GS 13 and above; by 1973 they held 4.4 percent of these jobs.

The first year in which the CSC broke out statistics on women by job category was 1973. They found that women were concentrated in clerical jobs—they held 48 percent of all such jobs in the Government. They also held 45 percent of the administrative and technical jobs and 19 percent of the professional positions in the Government.

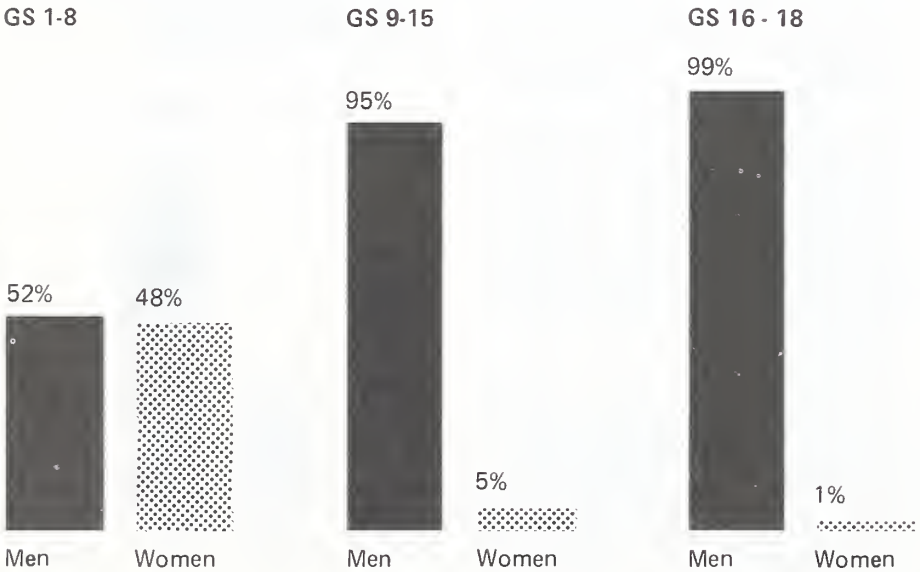
Closer to home, the Department of Agriculture has fewer women than the Government as a whole, and the women who work for USDA are more heavily concentrated in clerical positions than they are in the Government as a whole.

In 1974, women were 23 percent of USDA's work force. They were 48 percent of all full time employees at the GS 1-8 level; 5 percent of these at the GS 9-15 level and 1 percent at GS 16 and above. These women held 80 percent of all the clerical jobs in the Department; 13 percent of the administrative-technical jobs; and 3 percent of the professional slots in USDA.

Percent of Men and Women in Types of Jobs—USDA



Percent of Men and Women in Grade Ranges—USDA



WHERE ARE THEY?

When the question is asked why there aren't more women in professional and managerial spots the argument is often heard that women can't be recruited for higher graded positions because they lack the proper education and experience. The Department's 1973 EEO accomplishment report points out "the relative lack of women and minority graduates in fields required for USDA professional positions has been a major problem." This may be more true for USDA, where many non-traditional field such as forestry, soil conservation, and agronomy are represented, than it is for the Government as a whole. One solution to this problem, pointed out in the 1973 report, was the need for agencies to look at some of the major professional positions in USDA to determine if the specific college education requirements for these jobs were really appropriate.

Does this mean a lowering of standards? No, says FWP Coordinator Hart. What it does represent is an attempt to alter the traditional patterns of hiring, training, promotion, and business fraternization which favor the white male candidate over all others. Women seldom encounter blatant discrimination, Hart points out. But insce they are not "in the pipeline," traditional patterns work against them.

For example, she points out, the argument that a woman is either qualified or not is often used as an excuse to deny her on-the-job training. Many managers, she says, feel that the need for training is a sign that the woman is unqualified for the job. If she gets training, they view it as favoritism. But the FWP coordinator feels these agruments are shallow because the overlook the fact that women have been denied the gradual, on-the-job "grooming" that their men counterparts have received throughout their careers. Training merely represents a "catching up" to where the women would have been if given the same or equal treatment as their men counterparts earlier in their respective careers.

When top slots require qualifications that only candidates who have been

"groomed" and "in the pipeline" for years will have, the problem for women who have been denied those advantages is acute. Redefining qualifications more broadly and "catching up" in terms of training become justified, according to Hart.

PRESIDENTIAL CLOUT

In a strongly-worded memorandum to the heads of Departments and agencies, President Ford recently noted that there is considerable room for improvement in the area of equal opportunity in Federal employment. He noted that while one-third of all Federal employees are women, they represent only 4.4 percent of Federal employees at the GS 13 level and above.

That obviously means that men are in the positions of power from which change will have to be generated. The President pointed out that "equal employment opportunity doesn't just happen; it comes about because managers make it happen." He also emphasized that non-discrimination is not enough. "What is needed are strong affirmative actions to assure that all persons have an opportunity to compete on a fair and equal basis for employment and advancement in the Federal government." □

News

Farm safety '75 □ President Ford recently proclaimed the week of July 25 as National Farm Safety Week. In comment, *Secretary Butz* noted that the important human resource represented by our farmers and ranchers must work in an environment of safety and well-being to produce the materials needed by America and the world.

"Each year, too many farm workers are killed or seriously injured in preventable accidents," the Secretary said. "Planning in advance for a safe farm environment can help save the lives and health of these workers."

In keeping with the President's concern for the safety of rural people, and to help prevent the human suffering and material losses caused by farm accidents, USDA is renewing its year-round program of education and information on farm and home safety.

Rice and oilseeds go their own way □ The rice and oilseeds branch of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's cotton, rice and oilseeds division has been reorganized into two separate branches. The action was taken because of the increasing importance of rice and soybeans to U.S. exports. The United States exports more than half of its rice, a primary and preferred food source in many parts of the world. Slightly more than one-half of the U.S. soybean crop is exported in the form of soybeans and products.

George Schaefer, who has served 13 years with the Department as an agricultural marketing specialist, will head the rice branch. *Glenn Pogeler*, who came with USDA in 1970 from the Soybean Council, will be chief of the oilseeds branch.

Moon trees now earthbound □ A sycamore tree grown from a seed carried to the moon and back was planted in Philadelphia's Washington Square recently as part of the nation's bicentennial observance.

The tree was grown by the Forest Service from one of a collection of tree seeds carried to the moon in 1971 by Astronaut Stuart Roosa aboard Apollo 14. Prior to joining the Air Force, Col. Roosa was a Forest Service smokejumper.

The tree seeds were carried on the Apollo flight so that the effects of prolonged weightlessness on seed germination and seedling growth might be determined. When the seeds were returned to earth, the Forest Service successfully germinated them in its Gulfport, Miss., and Placerville, Calif., research installations. In addition to sycamore, other species of moon trees are loblolly pine, Douglas-fir, and redwood.

The Philadelphia moon tree planting is the first in a series of planned bicentennial events which will focus attention on the importance of trees and forest resources to the nation. The Forest Service is offering State Foresters similar trees grown from moon seeds for appropriate bicentennial observances.

Choking out hog cholera □ Not a single case of hog cholera was reported in the United States during the past year, says the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The last outbreak occurred May of 1974 in Puerto Rico. The last case in any of the 50 states was diagnosed in February 1974 in Mississippi.

Dr. John Hejl, APHIS deputy administrator for veterinary services, notes, however, that surveillance for this dread swine disease in continuing. "We want to make sure," he says, "that all traces of hog cholera virus have been eliminated from the U.S. hog population before the disease is officially declared eradicated."

An official declaration of hog cholera being eradicated from the entire United States could come in November, provided there are no more outbreaks.

"Eradication progress has already saved American hog producers hundreds of millions of dollars," Hejl points out.

"But from now on, we'll have to reamin especially alert to prevent introduction of hog cholera from the many places in the world where it still exists." The virus which causes hog cholera can be carried in contaminated pork products, boar semen, or vaccine brought into this country illegally. It can also be carried on the clothing or footwear of a foreign visitor or an American who visits a contaminated swine facility in another country.

The food situation □ USDA's Outlook Situation Board recently reported that while retail food price increases have slowed, first quarter 1975 prices still averaged 2 percent above the fourth quarter of 1974 and a little over 9 percent above a year earlier.

Retail prices likely will advance further through midyear, with most of the increase coming in the late spring. But the increases are expected to be moderate compared with the past 2 years.

As the year progresses, food prices will become more dependent upon 1975 crop conditions both in this country and abroad. Developments relating to general economic conditions, domestic and worldwide, can also be expected to impact on food prices.

Per capita food consumption in 1975 is likely to decline nearly 1 percent from a year earlier. Smaller supplies of pork and poultry products, along with a slight reduction in the consumption of dairy products, are likely to more than offset a larger output of beef, resulting in a drop of about 1-½ percent in the consumpt ion of all animal-related foods.

Personal consumption expenditures for food during the first quarter rose to $177 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate), an increase of over 3 percent from the previous quarter and up nearly 13 percent from a year earlier. Expenditures for food at home increased 3 percent with spending for restaurant meals and snacks increasing over 4 percent from the fourth quarter of 1974 to the first quarter of 1975. With food expenditures rising at a faster pace than disposable personal income, the share of income allocated to consumption expenditures for food rose to 17.4 percent in the fist quarter, compared with 16.6 percent a year earlier.

People

Presidential award □ *Dr. Clifford A. Myers, Jr.*, a research forester with USDA's Forest Service stationed at Fort Collins, Colo., recently received one of twelve Presidential Management Improvement Awards.

Myers received his award for work on computer simulation processes that help forest managers examine how various management decisions would affect long-term forest growth, yield, and monetary return. As a result of his efforts, timber management reports are now being produced with 60 percent cost savings and these reports can be updated realizing 90 percent savings as compared to previous procedures.

Presidential Management Improvement Certificates were also presented to *June P. Blair* of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, *Leo G. K. Iverson* (retired) of APHIS, and *Kenneth Frick* of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Federal service award □ Development of a rapid, low-cost method of determining the protein value of meat products recently won the 1974 Federal Service Award for Agricultural Research Service research chemist *Muriel L. Happich*. The award is presented annually by the Philadelphia Federal Business Association and the Philadelphia Federal Personnel Officers Group.

Dairy award □ The National Dairy Herd Improvement Association presented its 1975 Service Award to *Dean Plowman*, Idaho-Montana-Utah Area Director for the Agricultural Research Service, for his many contributions to the dairy industry and to the Association itself.

Attache to Yugoslavia □ *Robert J. Svec* was recently appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He replaces *James R. Hickman*, who has returned to Washington for reassignment.

Sweet reward □ Agricultural Research Service sugar scientist *Dr. Frank G. Carpenter* was recently awarded the 1975 Honorary Award for Achievement in Sugar Technology. The award is made annually by Sugar Industry Technologists, Inc., to a researcher who has made outstanding contributions to sugar refining.

Ford Gives Bonds Top-Level Support

Secretary Butz looks on as President Ford signs the authorization card increasing his payroll savings allotment for U.S. Savings Bonds. With them are Gabriel Hauge, Chairman of the Board of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., and Chairman of the U.S. Industrial Payroll Savings Committee; and Francine I. Neff, Treasurer of the United States and National Director of the Savings Bonds Division.

"I have myself subscribed to Savings Bonds for many years," the President told Secretary Butz, who is chairman of the Interdepartmental Savings Bonds Committee for Federal Employees. "I firmly believe that they are good for the country and for the well-being of every American."

The Secretary expressed his appreciation for the President's active and enthusiastic support of the program, noting that it has helped to revitalize the Savings Bonds campaign.

If They're Good Enough for the President of the United States . . . They're Good Enough For You

Take stock in America.

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.

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'USDA'

Volume 34
Number 13
June 25, 1975

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN USDA

"I have worked all my life with men, and I have discovered that some of them are very smart, some of them are very stupid, and most of them are mediocre hacks. Women fall into the same catagories. We will have equality when a female schlemeil moves ahead as fast as a male schlemeil.

That's equality."

A good part of the current women's rights movement has been aimed at what is called "consciousness raising." In part, this means becoming aware of women's potential. In part, it also means becoming aware of women's achievements.

How many USDA people know, for instance, that in 1918, *Agnes Chase* was jailed for burning President Woodrow Wilson's speeches in Washington's Lafeyette Park as part of women's rights demonstration? Agnes Chase was, of course, not the first woman chastised for such actions. But she was the first Department of Agriculture employee with the distinction. Starting out as an assistant microscopist, she worked her way up to senior botanist by 1939 when she retired at the age of 89.

Women professionals may not have been plentiful in USDA's first hundred years, but they were not unknown. There were even a few women agency heads. *Louise Stanley* headed the Bureau of Home Economics for 20 years from 1923 to 1943. *Hazel K. Stiebling* directed the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics from 1944 to 1953. She, by the way, was the first woman to receive, the USDA Distinguished Service Award. She also received the President's Distinguished Civilian Service Award. From the late 1800's through the 1940's, women headed the National Agricultural Library three times—*Ernestine Stevens*, *Josephine Clark*, and *Claribel R. Barnett*.

In more recent years, *Dorothy Jacobsen* became the highest ranking woman ever in the Department, serving as Assistant Secretary for International Affairs from 1964 to 1969. *Trienah Myers* served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Consumer Affairs from

Dr. Leslie Wildesen *works as an archeologist for the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. One of her recent projects was an attempt to document the former site of a Klamath Indian village on Forest Service land.*

Three score years ago John Barron was employed in Broome County as New York's first agricultural agent. Not long ago in Allegheny County, **Kathryn Brown** *became the State's first woman to serve in a similar position. She says that Extension reflects the needs and outlooks of people according to the times. Therefore, the fact that women are becoming agricultural agents is part of an idea whose time is now.*

1964 to 1966. In 1970 *Jean B. Apgar* of the Agricultural Research Service became the youngest woman ever to win the Federal Women's Award. *Isabelle Kelley* headed the Food Stamp Division of the Food and Nutrition Service for eight years before her retirement in 1973. *Nancy Steorts* currently serves as special advisor to the Secretary for consumer affairs.

As part of its continuing Person-to-Person series on Department people with special stories to tell, *USDA* has featured women who have found careers in non-traditional fields and women who have made the transition from technical to professional jobs. In this issue, that effort is concentrated in the name of consciousness raising.

The women featured are not tokens. Neither are they anomalies. They are simply indicators of a new trend. And the diversity of opinion among women themselves about this trend is evident in the quotes which have been used to punctuate their stories. The quotes are from the women here, from other USDA women, and from Dr. Estelle Ramey. Dr. Ramey, professor of physiology and biophysics at the Georgetown School of Medicine, cooperated with the Department during its first women's week last year.

If you find your consciousness—or your hackles—raised, and would like to add your own comments, write *USDA*. Opinions will be printed with initials and work locations as is the usual practice, or anonymously if you so request. Unsigned letters, however, will not be considered for publication.

"Any woman in this country who has moved ahead has done so with the help of a few key men along the way whose masculinity was not threatened by her achievements."

The Angell Civilian Conservation Center operated by the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest went co-ed at the beginning of the year—the first Job Corps facility in the nation to do so. **Karen Shaw** *was one of 32 women who worked alongside their 160 male counterparts learning carpentry, welding, small engine repair, and forestry. The only concession to the women was the remodelling of the Center's dorm—and a switch from calling enrollees Job Corpsmen to calling them "Corpsmembers."*

"Men need luck as well as ability to move up the ladder; able women need miracles."

Susanne Leckband, *agricultural engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in Colorado, has the distinction of being the only SCS field technician ever to take maternity leave. She feels that being a woman in a job traditionally held by men has not been a problem for her. "Farmers very soon see me as a person," she says.*

"I would like to believe that I was hired strictly on the basis of what I brought to my job, meaning my credentials and capabilities.

"The real clinchers for female success are: How sexy are you? How non-competitive are you? How lacking are you in all the inner drives that are required to achieve excellence? In terms of saleability in this society, a woman is better off if she has an IQ of 100 and looks like Raquel Welch.

"If I were a farmer and a young "chick" came out in the field to diagnose problems, I'd weigh my 20 years experience against her few years in school and probably do it my own way. I know I'm still on trial."

Clare Neer *started as a program clerk for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Oklahoma. Various positions in other ASCS locations, work with an insurance company and with the Federal Aviation Administration followed. They helped qualify her for the job of Alaska State Administrative and Program Assistant with ASCS when her family moved north. After that, she says, it was just a matter of cumulative experience and the fact that "there just weren't that many people around who had the same kind of background." She became State Executive Director last January.*

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1975 O - 587-298

On the partition next to **Mary Galloway's** *desk is a cartoon showing a man seated on a park bench. The cutline reads, "I think I'll just sit here and wait til life gets easier." That's one thing this public information specialist hasn't been doing. Mary's interest in the communications field was sparked by her work as an administrative secretary in APHIS's Midwest regional information office. The chief information officer there recognized and encouraged her potential. He initiated specialized on-the-job training for Mary. For her part, Mary earned journalism certification from Northwestern University while serving her apprenticeship in the APHIS office. Two years ago she made the big shift from secretary to public information specialist—simultaneously with a move from Chicago to Washington, D.C., and a change from single to married status! Mary attributes her advancement to her own determination, 20 years of experience in APHIS and its predecessor agencies, and the opportunities provided by employers. She might have added attitude to that list. The phase she typed over and over while her photo was snapped was a favorite quote: "Everyman is my superior in that I can learn from him."*

Back in the fifties when **Karin Kristiansson** *became TV editor, a woman's place was in the home economics department. But in 1974, a national award for excellent in television—that most modern of media—went to Ms. Kristiansson, Extension video chief at the University of Vermont. Not bad for a woman who learned English as a second language and joined Extension Service as a secretary.*

'I'm worried about having the burden of representing all womanhood on my shoulders. I don't want others to view me in that context.'

Dr. Mary E. Carter, *Director of the Agricultural Research Service's Southern Regional Research Center, discusses a knitting problem with technician Norbert A. Bouquet. Dr. Carter is the first woman to be appointed an area director in ARS. She's nationally known textile chemist with more than 25 years experience in research on natural and synthetic fibers. Her career began in private industry when she worked with practical problems in textile mills, proceeding to theoretical research, both in industry and government.*

Last July, **Rosine Plank,** *an international economist with the Foreign Agricultural Service, began her duties as assistant agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Mission to the European Communities (Common Market) in Brussels, Belgium. The only woman in FAS's attache service, she is the second woman assigned from Washington as a foreign service professional.*

NEWS

Update on home canning lids □ American consumers who are seeking home canning lids are being asked to buy only what they need for this canning season, and not to hoard.

Nancy Harvey Steorts, special assistant to the secretary for consumer affairs, reports that periodic checks of manufacturers of home canning equipment indicate they are working at full capacity to provide a sufficient number of lids to meet anticipated demand.

Also, consumers should note that supplies are being allocated only to those retail outlets that have normally carried home canning supplies in the past.

Mrs. Steorts says that while the anticipated supply situation is a tight one, it still appears that if home canners buy just what they need, there will be enough for everyone.

It costs $2.56 per acre to be a farmer □ Land is the farmer's basic input, and in 1973, farmers paid an average of $2.56 per acre in farm real estate taxes.

The total 1973 farm real estate tax bill came to $2.5 billion, which was 2.5 percent higher than in 1972.

The tax increase, however, lagged behind gains in farm real estate values (up 12.8 percent) and actually declined as a percent of gross farm income and farm personal income. Taxes declined from 3.4 percent of gross farm income in 1972 to 2.5 percent in 1973. The tax burden is often measured by expressing taxes as a proportion of personal income. Farm real estate taxes were 4.2 percent of personal income in 1973 compared to 6.1 percent in 1972.

Laws assessing land on the basis of its value in agricultural uses, rather than other potential uses, were a major factor reducing earlier, rapid rises in farm real estate taxes.

Who's the biggest buyer of U.S. wheat? □ No, contrary to popular opinion, it's not another country whose initials start with U.S. A sharply reduced wheat crop in 1974-75 and perilously low supplies will make India the largest commercial market for U.S. wheat this year.

India will spend about $700 million for U.S. wheat imports in fiscal 1975—nearly tripling its wheat imports from the United States. The importing of wheat and other agricultural products by India will mean sales of almost $1 billion for the United States and will make this country India's leading agricultural supplier.

In contrast to the trade agreements during the 1960's, most of the sales this year—about 85 percent—will be for cash.

PEOPLE

Tapped by the White House □ *Clayton K. Yeutter* was recently appointed by President Ford to serve as deputy special trade representative under Ambassador Frederick Dent. Yeutter will be involved in updating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Yeutter leaves his present job as USDA assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs to take the new post.

Regional representatives relocate □ There are changes in USDA's regional representative network.

Vern F. Highley, regional representative in San Francisco, and former administrative assistant to Secretary Butz, will return to private industry in July. So will *John P. Orcutt,* regional representative in Denver.

Jose M. Villarreal, regional representative in Dallas, has been appointed State Director-at-large of the Farmers Home Administration.

Regional representatives work with State and local officials on USDA programs and represent the Secretary on the Federal Regional Councils. In the future, this work will be done on a liaison basis by ranking regional USDA officials assigned to that dury in addition to their regular job responsibilities.

New soil conservation chief □ *Ronello M. (Mel) Davis* has been appointed new administrator of the Soil Conservation Service. Davis, who has been SCS assistant administrator since 1974, replaces the retiring *Kenneth E. Grant.*

Farm family of the year □ The James R. Ottoman family of Malin, Ore., is the Farmers Home Administration National Farm Family of the Year. Ottoman and his wife Patricia live on a farm about two and a half miles northeast of Malin where they raise potatoes, hay, small grain, and three children.

Coordinator for environmental quality □ *Dr. Fowden G. Maxwell* was recently named Coordinator of Environmental Quality Activities for the Department of Agriculture. He works on the staff of Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research and Education *Robert W. Long.*

Surprise! □ At the 29th Annual Honors Award program, *Secretary Butz* made a surprise presentation of the Superior Service Award to *Mae Paulsen* of the Office of Personnel. Mrs. Paulsen received the Department's second highest citation for "outstanding contributions to the Secretary's Honors Awards Program and to the Incentives Awards Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Mrs. Paulsen joined USDA in 1944 as a clerk-stenographer. In 1961, she was promoted to incentive awards assistant and began working with USDA's award programs. She has supervised the Honor Awards program for many years and became an incentive awards specialist in 1969. Despite her close association with the program, her colleagues managed to keep her award a secret until the moment the Secretary called her on stage to receive it.

Editor's note: If this award announcement seems longer than most that run in USDA*—you're right. It is. Mae Paulsen has been one of those "reliable sources" that every editor longs to have dozens of. Always bearing "good news" and always singing the praises of the many USDA people she gets to know through their award nominations, she's nice to have around.* USDA *is so pleased about this friend's success, that we're even willing to break a rule about printing awards, a rule Mrs. Paulsen has doggedly tried to change.*

Look, Mae—
WE'VE RUN AN AWARD PHOTO!

Secretary Butz *presents the Superior Service award to* **Mae Paulsen.**

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.

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Is the World Facing Starvation?

Is the world facing starvation? Are we doing all we can to grow more food? If you eat less, will that help hungry people in the rest of the world?

The Department of Agriculture has just issued a booklet that answers questions about the world food situation simply and directly. The booklet takes the form of a true-false quiz based on the most frequently asked questions. Can you sort out fact from fiction in the things you hear and read about food, hunger, and famine in the world? Take the following quiz and see. The answer key is on page 4—but no peeking! If you want the complete facts, write for a free copy of *Is the World Facing Starvation.* Send your request with a self-addressed mailing label to: *USDA*, Rm. 545-A, USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250.

1 ___True ___False The famine in the world is one of the worst in history.

2 ___True ___False Malnutrition is a world-wide problem.

3 ___True ___False Over the last 10 to 20 years, the amount of food per person has been declining steadily in the less developed countries of the world.

4 ___True ___False Total food production in less developed countries, where it is needed most, is falling far behind food output in developed countries.

5 ___True ___False The world is down to only about 30 days supply of food.

6 ___True ___False About 8 babies out of 10 in the world are born in less developed countries.

7 ___True ___False At the present rate, we will increase our world population by one-fourth in less than 10 years.

8 ___True ___False The real solution to the long-run food problem is to increase food production in developed countries enough to take care of food deficiencies in the less developed nations.

9 ___True ___False Almost all governments in less developed countries have policies designed to produce more food for their people.

10 ___True ___False Food grains are the single most important part of the world's food supply.

11 ___True ___False The strongest demand for food in the years ahead will continue to be for food grains such as wheat and rice, and not for meat.

12 ___True ___False If you ate a little less beef per week, that would free up some of the grain used to feed beef animals—and you would be making a real contribution toward helping the world's hungry.

13 ___True ___False The most needy of the world's people are rice eaters. If the United States produced twice as much rice and ate one-half less, that would solve the world's major food problem.

14 ___True ___False It would be good policy to greatly increase the world food grain supply, especially of wheat, by raising wheat instead of corn on much of our Corn Belt land in the Midwest.

15 ___True ___False The answer then is to change our diets drastically from animal proteins to cereals, making much more food grain available to the less developed countries, and at a price that they might readily afford on the world market.

16 ___True ___False Food prices around the world have been rising faster than the prices of all other commodities.

17 ___True ___False A major drop in food production caused the sharp rise in food prices since 1971.

18 ___True ___False What the hungry world needs for the long haul is more food aid to prevent malnutrition. □

particular trip, his second to those nations in 6 years.

Kent did not at any time call *USDA* to make any changes. That was apparently the work of an imposter, a misguided soul who obviously felt it was necessary to increase his credibility by using Kent's name.

When the bogus correction was published in *USDA*, Kent and I tried to determine whether or not Finland was a part of Scandinavia. When two reference books and a Swedish national gave us several differing views, we were willing to concede to the mystery authority, for lack of evidence other than Kent's own experience.

At any rate, we are happy to know we were right in the first place. And we're jumping at this opportunity to clear our names in this mix-up.

C.M.H., FS
Madison, Wis.

For a moment, I thought GSA was going to be knocking on my door, asking to have my globe back. But it looks like we're going to have to call this one a draw. The editor turned to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service for an answer and then consulted what she thought would be the ultimate authority—the Embassy of Finland here in Washington.

Alas, there's still no definitive answer. The Embassy replied yes and no. My source (who asked not to be identified) pointed out that culturally, and economically, Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden have very close ties. However, many scientists say Finland is not part of Scandanavia on the basis of its geology, language origins, and the like. An FAS source noted that the best way to rile a Finn—or a Swede, for that matter—is to call the Finn a Scandanavian.

For the final answer, flip a coin. And USDA lays another hotbed of controversy to rest.

PERSON TO PERSON

Smokey Bear, one of the most famous animal symbols in the nation, is now 25 years old. That's the equivalent of 70 years in humans—and 70 is the mandatory retirement age of Federal employees.

So the Forest Service has turned Smokey's duties at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., over to a younger, more active bear of the same kind, with the same orphan background.

Throughout his life, Smokey has been the "living symbol" of forest fire prevention. The Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention campaign, which he added, was created in 1942 to call public attention to the need to prevent careless man-caused wildfires which destroy the nation's forest resources.

The Smokey Bear of poster fame was created as the campaign's symbol in 1945 and his slogan, "Only you can prevent forest fires," has become familiar to a generation of Americans. The Smokey Bear forest fire prevention campaign has received much of the credit for reducing by about half the number of man-caused forest and brushland fires occuring annually.

In 1950, a bear cub rescued from a forest fire on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico was brought to the National Zoo in Washington to become the "live" bear behind the symbol. He became one of the Zoo's most popular attractions, receiving over 4 million visitors annually. A visible, live bear proved useful in helping children remember Smokey's message.

The new Smokey Bear, *living symbol of forest fire prevention, was recently appointed at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Like the original Smokey, he came from New Mexico as a cub and has served as an understudy to the older Smokey at the Zoo since 1971.*

In 1971, a young bear was brought to the Zoo to understudy Smokey's role and recently the Executive Committee of the Smokey Bear campaign decided to turn over to him the role of the living Smokey.

The old bear will spend his remaining years in peaceful retirement in his native New Mexico. Old Smokey and his mate Goldie, will live at the Ghost Ranch on the Carson National Forest north of Santa Fe. The State of New Mexico has enacted legislation to establish the Smokey Bear Historical State Park at Capitan, the town near the Lincoln National Forest where the original Smokey was found.

Farewell, good and faithful friend.

From Page 1

STARVATION—Answer Key

1 - False	**10** - True
2 - True	**11** - True
3 - False	**12** - False
4 - False	**13** - False
5 - False	**14** - False
6 - True	**15** - False
7 - True	**16** - False
8 - False	**17** - False
9 - False	**18** - False

How did you do?

If your answer is "Not too well," you may wonder why some of the statements you thought were true were false, and vice versa.

Is the World Facing Starvation contains complete explanations for each true-false statement. The reason, for example, that the world food problem would not be solved if the U.S. produced twice as much rice and ate one-half less of it (Statement 13) is that total U.S. rice production is hardly a drop in the world rice bucket. We grow around 9 billion pounds of rice vs. world production of about 680 billion pounds.

To get a copy of *Is the World Facing Starvation,* send a self-addressed mailing label to USDA, Rm. 545-A, USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.

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'USDA'

Volume 34
Number 15
July 23, 1975

Kansas Meeting Sets Priorities

The nation's most urgent agricultural research need is to find ways to grow more food while using less energy. That's the concensus of a group of farm and city food leaders and agricultural scientists.

The next most pressing need, they say, is to increase soybean production. This would have many benefits, including narrowing the protein gap in food-short nations.

Production, in fact, was the key word that emerged from the recent Working Conference to Meet U.S. and World Food Needs. The conference met in July in Kansas City, Missouri. It included spokesmen for agricultural producers and processors, members of national farm organizations, nutritionists, members of the public and others. Some 400 delegates and participants met to harness the expertise of everyone who has a role in the food production, distribution and consumption system and come up with guidelines for setting food research priorities for the next 10 to 15 years. In considering research priorities for the future, delegates time and again gave priority to research that would increase agricultural productivity.

Top priority—energy for production; second priority—increased soybean production; third priority—more efficient use of water for agricultural production; fourth priority—research on basic problems in plant growth and production; fifth priority—determine the nutrient requirements of people.

So it went, as spokesmen for farmers, ranchers, food processors, consumers, marketing firms, nutritionists, farm organizations, labor unions, international development experts, environmentalists and federal and state researchers met face-to-face and exchanged expertise and points of view on today's complex food research problems.

SEP 22

Co-sponsors of the meeting were the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert Long and Orville G. Bentley, dean of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, were co-chairmen of the nationwide mix of specialized knowledge, interests and opinion. Dr. Maurice L. Peterson, professor of agronomy, University of California at Davis, chaired the core planning group that organized and conducted the conference.

The group rated research needs on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 indicating needs of utmost importance and 4 indicating major importance.

"Food has climbed so high on the list of human needs that research support priorities—a necessary first step in reducing the number of people who do not have enough to eat—are incredibly difficult to set," said Secretary Long. "Yet, the hard decisions have to be made in the next 10 to 15 years."

Dean Bentley noted that decision-makers must face the reality that available funds probably will be too scarce to fully finance all proposed research efforts in the years ahead.

Both Mr. Long and Dr. Bentley stressed that the priorities as determined at the meeting are not mandatory on research institutions but will help planners, administrators, and scientists aim research at the most pressing food problems.

Two factors which helped bring on the conference are of rising food costs and the urging of the World Food Conference in Rome that all governments act to rid the earth of hunger and malnutrition.

During the three-day conference, subject-matter groups systematically tackled general and specific subject areas.

Planning Group Chairman Peterson noted that 33 subjects won ratings of major importance or greater. In addition to production and energy, these include such diverse subject areas as the natural resources of water, land, weather, and climate; domestic and international policy; human nutrition; marketing systems; and international development.

"This suggests," said Peterson, "that the delegates and participants didn't just promote their pet projects. Instead, they sincerely considered all factors in making their decisions. I believe the views of each was modified by the views of others. Most came away from the conference with a more comprehensive view than the one they brought with them."

All of the individual ratings were fed into a computer; which, in turn, averaged the magnitude of research needs. The "top 20" needs were:

Energy
Soybeans: Production
Water
Basic Problems in Plant Growth and Reproduction
Nutrient Requirements
Production Inputs and Services
Food Production Technology and Resource Management
Land
Corn: Production
Wheat: Production
Dairy: Production
Beef: Production
Public Policy: Domestic
Vegetable Crops: Production
Aquatic Food Sources: Production
Public Policy: International
Food Technology
Production Systems
Harvested Forages and Seed: Production
Food Safety

NEWS

New Rules for Predators

New regulations announced recently by Executive Order allow experimental use of sodium cyanide devices to control coyote damage to livestick and reduce delays in emergency use of chemical toxicants on federal lands and in federal programs to control predator and depredating mammals and birds.

Secretary Butz says he welcomes the new rules as an improvement over past methods. Experience in the past 3 years, says the Secretary, has shown that while mechanical controls are effective in some situations, they are inadequate under many circumstances.

Their Credit Is Good

The Civil Service Commission recently affirmed that credits earned through taking courses from the USDA Graduate School are acceptable for examination and qualification purposes on the same basis as those from accredited colleges and universities.

If you're interested in any of the Graduate Schools courses, including the Independent Study courses offered by mail, write for a catalog: Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

If Inflation Doesn't Eat Up the Budget, Vandalism Will

The cost of vandalism and littering at recreation areas in National Forests exceeded $7.4 million last year. A recent study shows that vandalism and littering cost about four cents per recreation visitor day in the National Forests. Vandalism in the National Forests has increased more than 50 percent since 1969.

Good Food News For Kids

Elementary school children can now learn more about nutrition from a quartet of farm animals bearing messages about food and nutrition. Four leaflets, based on the four basic food groups, introduce Molly Moo (milk and dairy products); Gussie Goose (fruits and vegetables); Mary Mutton (meats and protein); and Fred the Horse (breads and cereals). Puzzles, word games, artwork, and text explain how food is produced, why food costs what it costs, and how food provides good nutrition. Sets of the leaflet, *Good Food News for Kids*, are available free from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

Wood a Cow Eat That?

A beef feeding study using aspen bark is beginning at a commercial feedlot in Montrose, Colo., as a result of research by scientists at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis.

Forest Service scientists found that sheep gain weight on a diet of wood residue and bark from aspen trees. They found that ruminant animals such as cows and sheep can obtain most of the carbohydrates they need for energy from aspen bark. Rations containing high amounts of bark may not be useful for animals involved in energy and protein demanding activities such as milk production, but they appear to be practical substitutes for more expensive alfalfa in finishing rations at some feedlots.

Using aspen bark in feedlots could help provide a market for this otherwise unused part of the tree and help the FS dispose of aspen removed in timber stand improvement and game management activities.

How They Get the Facts, Ma'am

Scope and Methods of the Statistical Reporting Service provides a detailed explanation of the surveying and estimating procedures used by USDA's primary fact-collecting and fact-reporting agency.

The new publication describes the statistical techniques used by SRS in preparing data for publication and for use by farmers, commodity buyers and others in the agricultural complex. Analysts in commerce, government, and education, as well as Federal and State policy makers will also find it useful.

Single copies of *Scope and Methods of the Statistical Reporting Service* are available upon postcard request to USDA-SRS, Publications Unit, Rm. 0005, Washington, D.C. 20250.

There are Good 'Uns and Bad 'Uns

If you don't know a flea beetle from a minute pirate bug, check into USDA's bulletin *Insects and Diseases of Vegetables in the Home Garden*. There's good reason to know the difference between the two insects—one eats your tomatoes, the other eats the tomato eater. The book has line drawings, color photographs and descriptive text to help you identify the insect world's good guys and bad guys. It will also tell you about some of the more common diseases that attack vegetables. *Insects and Diseases of Vegetables in the Home Garden* (AIB-380) may be purchased for $1.20 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Eating Is the Death of Them

Forest Service entomologists *Glenn Esenther* with the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., and *Raymond Beal* of the Southern Forest Experiment Station have developed an inexpensive and easy to use bait system for attracting and killing termites.

The key to the new treatment is a small wood block that has been infected with a brown-rot fungus. This bait is sterilized to kill the active fungus then impregnated with a small amount of Mirex, a slow acting poison.

The dead fungi leave a chemical residue that is very similar to the one termites use to mark their trails to food. This chemical odor lures termites that are foraging as much as 3 feet away from the block. When the termites come to the block and eat some of the wood, the Mirex gets 'em.

There's Whee In Whey

USDA researchers have come up with a process that turns acid whey into two interesting products. Acid whey is a by-product of soft cheese production and a problem to dispose of. The scientists developed a process that uses yeast to ferment the whey, distills off ethyl alcohol, and yields a liquid containing a high quality protein. Thus, problem acid whey can be converted into an alcohol which has already been used in mixed drinks as a substitute for vodka and a protein-containing liquid which can be dehydrated and used as a nutritious food. Little Miss Muffet may have been ahead of her time.

Two Sides To The Cotton Story

Scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service have added color to your life by inventing an entirely new dyeing technique for cotton textiles. The method makes it possible to dye one side of a fabric one color and the flip side an entirely different color. The new dyeing technique is a spinoff from the wash-wear and durable-press finishes developed by the textile scientists in recent years. In making what they call restricted dye applications, the researchers treat one side of the fabric with a modified wash-wear formulation, then dye the fabric with a reactive cotton dye. The dye colors the untreated side but has no effect on the treated side. Following dyeing, the fabric is washed in an acid bath to remove the "resister." The fabric, now chemical-free and dyed on one side, is dyed again. Behold! A two-colored fabric. Modifications of the procedure, such as weaving treated yarns with untreated yarns or making designs on the fabric surface with the dye "resisters," offer virtually unlimited combinations of color and designs. Reactive dyes, the types used in research, are used in the finishing industry, but vat dyes are in more widespread use. Research is now being done to adapt the new process to vat dyeing.

Curing Hides and the Environment, Too

Hides preserved for a week with an acid-sulfite treatment instead of conventional salt curing can be made into good shoe upper leather, says ARS chemist *David G. Bailey* of the Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadephia, Pa. Bailey did note some undesirable effects on the hide and leather, though, and says that long-term preservation of hides will probably still be done by salt curing. This process may, however, become uneconomical in the future if more stringent environmental regulations require expensive treatment of tannery effluents to remove the dissolved salt. Then, an alternative such as acid-sulfite preservation of hides may become necessary. Even now, he points out, tanners could take advantage of the cheaper process for fresh hides they intend to process in a relatively short time.

Leather Profits from Graft

ARS chemist *Stephen H. Feairheller* recently reported on a process which produces fine garment leathers in a wide range of colors that can be either dry-cleaned or laundered.

The process combines three distinct leathermaking operations—retanning, coloring, fatliquoring—into one. The retanning is done by graft polymerization, a process developed a couple of years ago at ARS's Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia. The combination of graft polymerization with other operations to produce finished leather means that consumers can look forward to leathers that are stronger and stretchier—as well as easier to clean. Engineers at the ARS Center estimate that the new process costs about 5½¢ for each square foot of leather treated.

COMMENTS

FLYING RIGHT

I was delighted to see your tribute to International Women's Year and *Women in Agriculture* featured in *USDA*. The entire article is well done and Marjory Hart's input is excellent. The facts presented are very thought-provoking, so we'll have to get on the stick and see what we can do to boost the percentage of women in the professional/managerial and administrative/technical levels.

But, alas, who inverted the symbol for International Women's Year below your first page masthead? Instead of a combination picture of a graceful, stylized dove, the biological symbol for women (Venus) and the mathematical sign for equality, we see a brand new concept in football helmets. I'll bet you get lots of comments on this, especially from women, although I know a few observant men who hope we haven't missed the boat. Perhaps you could reprint the symbol in a future issue.

A.A.B., FS
Upper Darby, Penn.

It should be pointed out that a terrible error has been made in the June 11 issue of *USDA* concerning the IWY symbol. It is upside down!!

As mentioned in the body of the text on women in USDA, the problems in USDA are acute. And these problems are acute enough without making the USDA's reputation worse by issuing a publication with the IWY symbol upside down.

On a more positive tone, however, we women in USDA appreciate the fact that so much space was given to cover the status of women's employment in USDA. This is more of the kind of information that is needed to be disseminated to *all* USDA employees, men as well as women.

B.G.L., ARS
Athens, Ga.

The IWY Committee in the Southeast Regional Office of the Food and Nutrition Service was pleased to note the article concerning International Women's Year.

However, we find it insulting and intolerable that the IWY logo, so prominently placed on the first page, was printed upside down. Such errors, innocent as they may seem, raise serious questions about the sincerity and credibility of the entire issue.

J.B., FNS
Atlanta, Ga.

As a member of the Nebraska Federal Women's Council, I was both pleased and disappointed to read your articles on women.

I was pleased that attention was given to the women's program and that information was given on International Women's Year.

My disappointment was with the showing that women in USDA have made in the upper brackets (although I was not surprised). My additional disappointment was with the fact that the IWY

symbol was printed upside down. The symbol includes a dove, which does not show up at all when it is upside down. The significance of the symbol was not given, either. Since many people are not aware yet of the IWY symbol, I believe it would be worthwhile to repeat it correctly with an explanation: The dove for peace, the female sign, and the equality or development symbol.

S.T.H., ARS
Lincoln, Nebr.

I am utterly appalled to see, in an issue devoted particularly to "Women in Agriculture," the official symbol for the International Women's Year prominently displayed on page 1, *upside down.*

Such a careless and slipshod presentation of the subject matter is a poor tribute indeed to the thousands of hard-working and dedicated women in the Department of Agriculture who perform their duties skillfully and responsibly. Cannot publicity on our behalf be prepared with greater care?

D.M.D., ARS
Peoria, Ill.

As usual the articles published in *USDA* June 11, 1975, were interesting and enlightening. I noted however that the International Women's Year emblem was printed upside down and thought perhaps you would want to make amends to our women co-workers in a subsequent issue.

T.M., ARS
Berkeley, Calif.

If you would turn the Women's Year Symbol right side up you will see (1) the symbol in its correct position, (2) a peace dove, (3) the scientific sign for female, and (4) in the dove's tail the equality sign. Upside down the symbol looks like a (heaven forbid) football helmet. I think this should be corrected immediately as it is inexcusable and disgusting.

D. M. M., ARS
Laramie, Wyo.

I was pleased to see more than half of your June 11 issue devoted to assessing the situation of women, but I was unhappy to see the IWY symbol upside down on the front page.

In addition to illustrating a proofreading fault, the fact that it was sent to the field with the error may indicate attitudes that contribute to the graphic statistics relative to women in the USDA.

Chief McGuire of the Forest Service has made strong policy statements concerning equality of employment and opportunity for women and the SCS seems to be taking action also. I would like to see Department commitment as well.

P.A.M.F., FS
Southwestern Region

With the humblest of apologies, USDA **reprints the IWY symbol for its readers.**

When the June 11 issue arrived from GPO for mailing, the editor was as horrified as the USDA **readers who wrote about the error. I quickly verified that all had been in order when the issue went to GPO. But sometime after I lost control over the publication, the symbol did a flip flop. Was it an honest mistake? Sabotage? We'll never know.**

I had two choices—to hold up distribution while GPO reprinted the issue, or to let it go without delay. I chose to do the latter. USDA's **ratio distribution system works slowly at best. And the time required for a reprinting would have meant that the second issue on women in the Department would leapfrog the first. So I chose to send June 11 on its way despite the conversion of the dove into a football helmet.**

To those who would have chosen reprinting and late delivery, I can only say that I hope that the story's facts transcended the mechanical errors and had at least as much impact.

DID THEY JUST FADE AWAY?

I always enjoy the material contained in the Newsletter, and there was an especially interesting lead article in the June 25 issue.

However, I was curious as to whether or not Agnes Chase actually retired at the age of 89? I know that age 70 is the mandatory retirement age now, but some 36 years ago could people actually work for Uncle Sam til age 90 or so?

D.D., FS
Berkeley, Calif.

The original Civil Service retirement law was first approved in 1920 and has been amended many times since by Congress. One of the main purposes of the original law was to require the retirement of employees whose effectiveness was reduced by advanced age. Today, the compulsory retirement age is 70 with 15 years' service. However, this particular requirement didn't become law until 1942. So Agnes, who retired in 1939, wasn't affected by it.

PEOPLE

Conservation Award

John M. Pager, Jr., Environmental Education Specialist for the 20-State Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service and editor of *Environmental Vistas*, recently won the American Motors Conservation Award for 1975.

Chem Lit Did it

Dr. William J. Wiswesser, Agricultural Research Service research chemist stationed at Beltsville, Md., is the 1975 recipient of the Austin M. Patterson Award. Recipients are selected in recognition of meritorious contributions in the field of chemical literature, particularly in the documentation of chemistry.

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Research Support for American Farms

The treatises on democracy by Alexis de Tocqueville, based on that frenchman's wide travels in America during the early part of the 19th century, are noted for their keen insight into the American system.

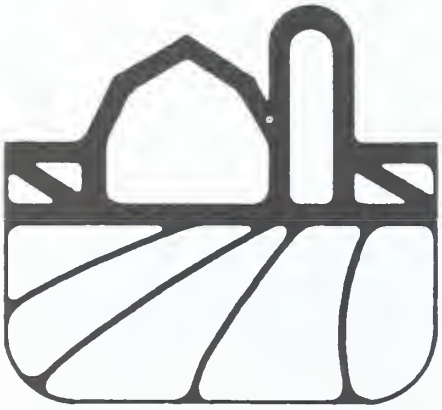
But de Tocqueville missed the mark when it came to American agriculture. "Agriculture," he wrote, "is perhaps, of all the useful arts, that which improves most slowly among democratic nations."

De Tocqueville's lack of foresight is forgiveable, however. Indeed, few could have detected in the agriculture of the early 1800's the sparks of the technological explosion that would revolutionize farming 100 years later.

This change didn't just happen. It was the direct payoff from a unique effort over a 100-year period that created a vast network of agricultural research and educational institutions.

Among farmers' contact points for research information are the county extension offices in 3,150 counties in the 50 States, and in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Each is staffed with one or more full-time professional agriculturists and home economists.

The 11,500 county workers are backstopped by 4,500 State extension professionals. A small Federal office in USDA services and coordinates the State offices.



Research information also reaches farmers and the public through the press, radio, and television. Advertising is another means by which agribusiness firms communicate with farmers and other.

Research findings flow into this information network from a variety of sources. Largest of the public research agencies is USDA's Agricultural Research Service. It operates 155 separate research establishments, including the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md., and laboratories in each of the States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and several foreign countries. ARS also conducts research in cooperation with, or under contracts or grants with, State agricultural experiment stations, State departments of agriculture, and other groups both public and private.

Other USDA research agencies include the Economic Research Service, the Forest Service, and the Farmer Cooperative Service. Statistics on agricultural production and other subjects are collected by the Statistical Reporting Service.

Data are not available on private agricultural research but it is believed to be roughly equal to that conducted by public agencies.

A major step in the development of the agricultural research and education network was the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1862.

When Congress established USDA, it also granted each State a patrimony from the public lands. Proceeds from the sale of this land were to be used to establish agricultural and mechanical (A&M) colleges.

The land-grant colleges started small. In most cases, a farm was purchased and a single brick building was erected to provide classroom, laboratory, office, and dormitory space.

Farmers and state politicians didn't see the value of the A & M colleges right away, though State legislatures provided funds for buildings and sometimes for maintenance. For the first 25 years, the colleges had to rely primarily on the income from Federal endowments.

Then in 1887, the Hatch Act set an annual stipend of $15,000 to support experiment stations at the colleges. The Second Morrill act of 1890 provided further increases to an annual additional total of $25,000 per school. Federal support for the experiment stations increased further during the first part of the 20th century, reaching $90,000 per state by 1929. State support rose even more rapidly.

The fortunes of the colleges improved rapidly with the rise in farm prices during the first 2 decades of the 20th century. Funds provided by State legislatures increased and enrollment soared.

The long gestation period gave the colleges time to learn some basic lessons. They found that publicly supported research must solve the problems of its constituents and that the solutions must be communicated to the public in usable form. They learned what the problems were. They also learned the value of systematizing all available knowledge on a subject before breaking new ground.

The period from 1900 to 1930 saw two major developments that became the foundation for agricultural research and education as we know it today:

- Training of research scientists and technologists in fields relating to agriculture; and
- Training of communicators who could interpret and pass the know-how from the laboratory to the working farmer.

Public financing of communication was inaugurated by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which gave financial support for a nationwide system of adult education in agriculture and home economics. The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 provided Federal money for vocational education.

Many of the more elementary scientific production problems of agriculture were solved during the first third of this century. More important for the long run, the research that produced the revolution in productivity after World

War II was launched. It was to supply basic knowledge in genetics, human, animal and plant nutrition, and plant and animal diseases and pests.

The hard economic times of the 1930's bore heavily on the land-grant colleges, experiment stations, and Extension Services. Critics demanded a halt to research because agriculture was overproducing. Extension Services were branded servants of organized, affluent farmers and not entitled to public funds. But the crisis also was a time of opportunity. The land-grant colleges played a leading part in developing and implementing the agricultural programs adopted during the Depression. Extension was the only nationwide organization capable of carrying out the New Deal programs in short fashion.

Agriculture received a new infusion of Federal funds through the Bankhead-Jones Act of 1935. It initially provided a $1-million increase in research funds, to be raised by annual $1-million increments to $5 million. Forty percent of these funds went to Federal research and 60 percent to State.

Instead of being apportioned equally among the States, as in the past, the new funds were apportioned on the basis of the total U.S. rural population. The provisions recognized that States with the largest rural populations were least able to support institutions to promote agriculture.

Another deep well of funds for both Federal and State research was the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

The experience of a century is that success in agricultural research and education is a longtime proposition. Although there are immediate benefits, major innovations require a long period for development. Even after a new practice is perfected, changing circumstances may postpone adoption.

For example, the breakthroughs in genetics and chemistry in the first third of this century did not begin to appear in farming until the mid-1930's. The full impact was delayed by the Depression and the outbreak of World War II. The rate of adoption did not reach flood tide until the 1950's and 1960's.

Much of the backlog of reserve technology has now been put to use. This is reason for concern because of rising costs of research, shrinking funds, and the growing complexity of the problems.

However, the U.S. has large staffs of highly trained, well-equipped agricultural researchers, communicators, and educators. This is a benefit of incalculable value as we enter a period in which massive problems of environmental pollution, energy conservation, and the pressure of population on the food supply move to the forefront. □

NEWS

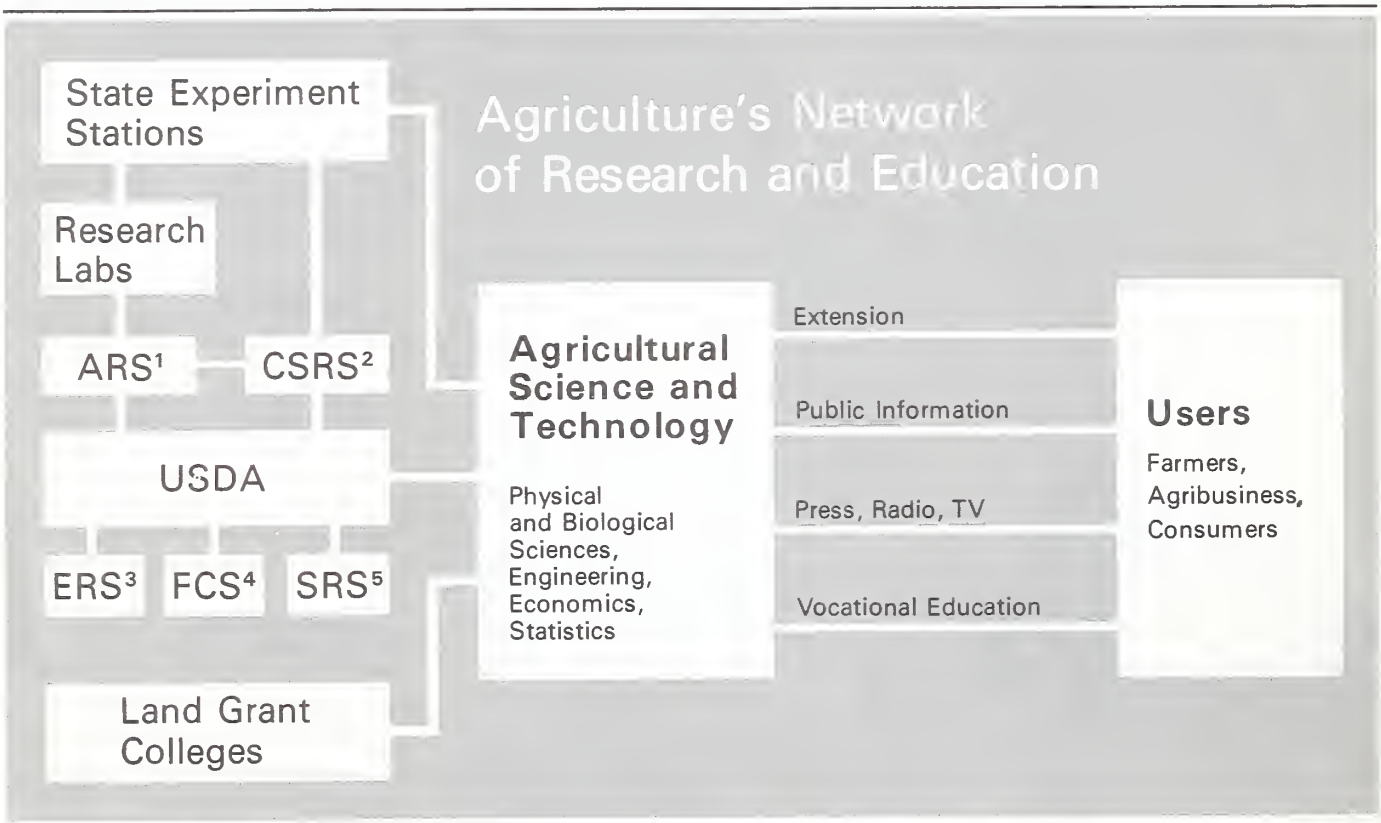
USDA Bills Three States

USDA has billed California, Washington, and Hawaii a total of $1,008,400 for losses due to negligence in these states' administration of the food stamp program.

The food stamp program is a cooperative Federal-state program administered by state social service agencies. USDA requested statistically valid audits of food stamp operations in the three states after finding that the states had taken no action for a long period of time to correct serious program deficiencies or to improve program administration.

In California, an audit of Los Angeles County food stamp operations during July 1973 showed that the county issued excessive food stamp allotments. The country also issued duplicate food stamp "Authorization-to-Purchase" cards, half of which were used to buy food stamps. USDA determined from these errors that program losses in Los Angeles County during July 1973 amounted to $720,000. A similar audit showed that Santa Clara County issued excessive food stamp allotments resulting in program losses of $216,400 during June and July 1974.

In Washington, an audit of King County food stamp operations during February 1970 through May 1971 showed that the county used unqualified



[1]Agricultural Research Service
[2]Cooperative State Research Service
[3]Economic Research Service
[4]Farmer Cooperative Service
[5]Statistical Reporting Service

workers to certify ineligible households for food stamps and failed to require adequate verification of income and resources for food stamp certifications. These errors resulted in total program losses of $20,500.

In Hawaii, an audit revealed that Oahu County had issued excessive food stamp allotments in program losses of $51,100 during May 1974 and had made little or no attempts to recover these overissued amounts.

Food stamp regulations require that when USDA's Food and Nutrition Service finds gross negligence or fraud in a state's administration of the food stamp program, the state must pay back to FNS the amount of bonus coupons issued as a result of such negligence or fraud.

What Is a Farm?

The official definition of a farm has changed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census will now define a farm as "any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products is sold or would normally be sold during a year."

Under the old definition, used since the late 1950s, a farm was any place under 10 acres with annual sales of $250 or more of agricultural goods, or any place of 10 or more acres selling $50 or more.

The new definition better reflects today's agriculture and will result in a decreased number of farms. The extent of the decrease will be known following review of the 1974 Census of Agriculture. The Bureau of the Census will report the 1974 information using both the old and new definitions. Under the old definition, the 1969 Census counted 2.7 million farms.

In view of the diversity of today's farming operations, classes of farms are also being modified. The major classes are now:

- Primary farm—one where the operator spends at least half his work-time on the farm; also one operated by a corporation or multi-establishment company which receives at least half its gross business income from farming.
- Part-time farm—one where the operator spends less than half his work-time on the farm.
- Business-associated farm—one operated by a corporation or multi-establishment company which receives less than half its gross business income from farming.

A fourth class—abnormal farm—will continue in use to define farms operated by an institution such as a hospital or school, or by an Indian reservation or as an experimental or research farm.

Other changes are being made in the classification system to add more value of sales classes for farms with over $100,000 of sales and to add more detailed categories for types of farms.

These changes are being made so the economic and statistical information produced by USDA and the Census Bureau can better describe today's farming industry. Important statistical series of USDA will be changed to reflect the new definition and system of classifying farms based on an evaluation of 1974 Census results and other data.

Beltsville Goes to the Birds

President Ford set aside approximately 3,600 acres of Federally-owned land at Beltsville, Md., for recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related educational and scientific activities. The land encomposses part of the eastern section of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

A tract of 900 acres north of the airport, formerly utilized by the Forest Service, has been transferred to the Interior Department's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. To insure the most effective utilization of the remaining 2,700 acres, the Federal Property Council has directed that a comprehensive land use plan be developed. Responsibility for the development of the master plan rests with the Interior Department.

The Federal Property Council has suggested that ARS, and other agencies that have used portions of the land over the years, actively pursue their program needs during the master-planning effort. The planning process is expected to take at least 2 or 3 years. USDA retains title to the 2,700 acres pending completion of the master plan.

New Food Stamps for Old

Food stamp recipients can exchange old food stamps for new ones now that the old stamps have expired.

Old stamps can be exchanged dollar for dollar, new food stamps for old, at local food stamp offices designated by state agencies.

USDA introduced the new food stamp series on March 1, 1975, and until August 31, food stamp recipients could continue using their old stamps in authorized retail food stores. New $1, $5, and $10 denominations have replaced the old 50¢, $2, and $5 stamps.

How Sweet It Isn't

Hot from the laboratory ovens of the Agricultural Research Service comes a new bread enriched with about 50% more protein than bread now on the market. The bread contains more than a tripled concentration of lysine, making its nutritional quality comparable to milk and meat proteins. Another big bonus is that the formula requires no sugar—a standard bread ingredient. USDA researchers estimate the U.S. could save some 3 million pounds of sugar each day if this formula were used to bake about 50 million 1-pound loaves of white bread daily.

Did You Eat Your Share?

First quarter 1975 saw U.S. beef consumption climb to an unprecedented 30.2 pounds per person, USDA economists report. The increase from fourth quarter 1974 proved only fractional, but Americans put away about 2 pounds more per person than a year earlier. Veal consumption was up from last year but still ranged under 1 pound per person. Pork, lamb, and mutton consumption each fell off, pulling use of all red meats down about a pound per person from the fourth quarter of 1974 to 47 pounds during January-March of this year.

While Americans may still crave beef, they're less in love with butter. American butter consumption skidded to 4½ pounds per person last year, down 3/10 of a pound from 1973 and the lowest level since records began in 1909. Direct use of lard by consumers also sank to new lows at just over 3 pounds per person. USDA economists note that margarine was about the only major food fat not registering a drop in per capita use.

A Finer French Fry

Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have taken a twist out of making french fries with the development of a new processing method that pushes steamed mashed potatoes through a die that shapes them into straight, uniform french fries. The process uses physical methods rather than preservatives and binders to hold the mash together. This improves crispness and rigidity, and helps the fries absorb less oil than commercial varieties. The new method will also accept potatoes of any size or shape—which cuts down on waste. And there's still another bonus: A device used to mash the potatoes eliminates the need for caustic or steam peeling . . . a common cause of water pollution.

Crop Stoppers

What is it that holds back farm production in the world's developing countries? Bad weather? Lack of know-how? No fertilizer?

It's all of these and more, according to researchers with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. In a recent survey, they found 46 of 50 less developed nations had government policies that hamper agricultural development.

While the survey didn't attempt to measure the specific impacts of the programs, it did identify the kinds of policies that directly or indirectly curb

farm production.

The major ones are: Price controls; export controls and export taxes; import subsidies; and restrictions on the movement of agricultural products form surplus districts to deficit districts within a country.

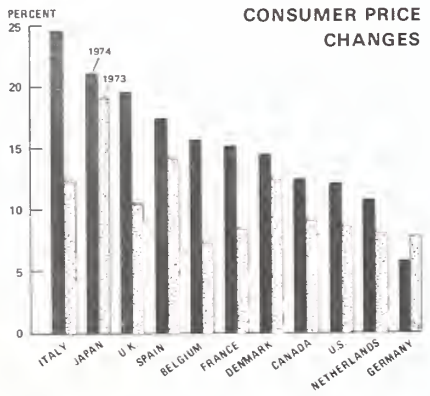
Think Inflation Hit You Hard In 1974?

Well, be glad you weren't living in Italy or Japan, where the cost of living zoomed by more than 20 percent. As the chart at right shows, the U.S. rate—a little over 12 percent—ranked below eight other industrial countries. Only the Netherlands and Germany reported lower rates of inflation.

While the U.S. rate of inflation in 1974 rose about 40 percent over 1973, inflation nearly doubled in four countries—Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and France. Only Germany had a lower rate of inflation in 1974 than in 1973.

Higher food and oil prices were the major culprits. Food prices played a smaller role in 1974 than in 1973, however. They accounted for about 45 percent of the 1973 inflation in the 11 countries shown in the chart, whereas in 1974, they accounted for a little under 30 percent. Here at home, food prices were responsible for a little over half of the price rise for all items in 1973, compared with about one-fourth in 1974, when food prices rose at about the same rate as all other tiems.

Oil prices, on the other hand, had their greatest impact in 1974, though it's difficult to tell just how much they added to the inflationary spiral.



PEOPLE

Soil Society Officer

ARS soil scientist *Dr. William C. Moldenhauer,* stationed in Lafayette, Ind., will become second vice-president of the Soil Conservation Society of America on Jan. 1, 1976. Moldenhauer has been a member of the society since 1956, and was named a Fellow in 1960.

New AMS Administrator

Donald E. Wilkinson was recently appointed administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service. *Wilkinson* has been Wisconsin State Secretary of Agriculture since 1969. He succeeds *Ervin L. Peterson,* who retired July 31.

Employed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture since 1948, *Wilkinson* moved successfully to more responsible positions. He served as administrator of that state's Marketing Division from 1955 to 1964, became assistant secretary of agriculture and administrator of the information division in 1964, and was appointed secretary by the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture on April 1, 1969.

Silver Switch

Rural Electrification Administration Administrator *David A. Hamil* recently received the Silver Switch award from the Farm Electrification Council. The Council presented the award in recognition of Hamil's "distinguished service to farm electrification."

We're ARS—Fly Us

The Agricultural Research Service's aircraft operations group was recently honored for compiling an impressive safety records. Over the past three decades, the nine ARS pilots in the group have rolled up a combined total of 122 man-years of agricultural flying with only two minor accidents—both non-flying—and no injuries. Headquartered at USDA's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md., the group consists of pilots *Dick Dyer, Archie Gieser, Jack Henderson, Al Higgins, Norm Meyer, Harry Moore, Jack Myhree, Jesse Summers, Al Temple,* and mechanics *Paul Balsley, John Bouma, Jeff Heldreth,* and *Harold Mahry.*

New Italian Attache

John H. Davenport was recently appointed agricultural officer on the staff of the U.S. Consulate General in Milan, Italy. He replaces *Byron K.* Montgomery, who returned to Washington for reassignment.

ARS Lecturer Announced

Dr. William J. Darby, president of the Nutrition Foundation Inc., New York, N.Y., will present the seventh W.O. Atwater Memorial Lecture Oct. 21, 1975, in San Antonia, Tex.

The Atwater Lecture is sponsored by the Department's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in honor of Dr. Wilbur O. Atwater (1844-1907) who, in 1894, was appointed USDA's first chief of nutrition investigations. Established by ARS in 1967, the Atwater lectureship gives special recognition to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in a field of science broadly related to human nutrition, or have advanced public understanding of the role of science in meeting world food needs.

Peruvian Ag Attache

Carlos J. Ortega was recently named agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru. He replaces *Paul J. Ferree*, who is being reassigned.

New Ag Attache for Costa Rica

Edwin I. Cissel was recently appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. He replaces *James Rudbeck*, who is being reassigned.

To Study In Sweden

Dr. Von L. Byrd of the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin recently began a year's research on techniques to measure fiber bonding in paper at Sweden's Forest Products Research Laboratory in Stockholm. The American and Swedish laboratories are leading research institutions in the field of mechanical properties of paper.

COMMENTS

I would like to draw you attention to the fact that you have the IWY emblem upside down.

As a woman employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I am very proud of the International Women's Year and its symbol and felt this injustice should be brought to your attention.

Thank you for taking the time to write on women in agriculture. We are very grateful to you for trying to make our objectives clearer to others.

P.L.A., ASCS
Spirit Lake, Iowa

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.
Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

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USDA

Volume 34
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September 17, 1975

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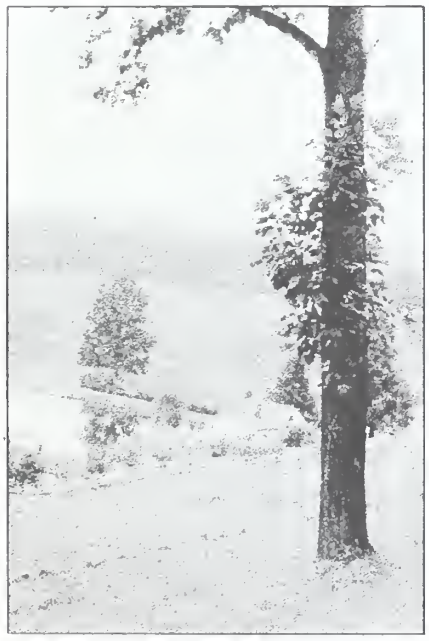
SERIAL RECORDS

The Countryside Beckons

Years ago, they said that rural America was dying. That it had no future. And sometimes it was hard to find evidence to the contrary.

But now it's a different story. The Nation finds itself facing a startling "back-to-the-country" movement.



The escalating return to the country began in the early 1970's. That's when the longtime flow of rural people to U.S. cities in search of jobs and a better life suddenly ebbed and reversed itself. Between 1970 and 1973, 1.1 million more people migrated to rural and small town areas than left them.

A big reason for this about-face has been a shift in attitudes about rural living. Major cities that grew and sprawled until nearly three-fourths of the population was jammed onto less than 2 percent of our land area are losing their luster for many Americans.

Urban people, according to reports, are getting fed up with rising crime rates, soaring housing costs, and the breakdown of services afflicting our big cities and their suburbs. Several national surveys have shown that at least twice as many people would like to live in rural areas than actually live there.

But if you had to give any one reason why people started leaving the city for the country, it would have to be job opportunities. Before our current economic slowdown, rural job opportunities opened up twice as fast as urban employment, growing at an annual rate of 2.6 percent during 1970-73, versus 1.2 percent in the cities.

Between 1950 and 1970, the surge of rural jobs began reversing a trend that saw nearly a third of all retail and consumer service enterprises in towns of less than 2,500 close their doors. Besides attracting an influx of city people, the new jobs allowed farm people to get work off the farm—something they'd had to commute many miles to do before.

The economic downturn, of course, has affected rural areas as well as big cities. Indications are that from November 1973 to November 1974, nonmetro areas made only small gains in employment as compared with the rather substantial gains made during 1971-73. A slight loss in total nonmetro jobs took place in calendar year 1974 in comparison to 1973.

But there's a bright note in all of this: In the past, rural areas have pulled out of recessions more quickly than the urban sector. Also, the economies of many rural areas will continue to benefit from the compelling world need for food and fuel.

Another factor in rural growth has been the emergence of U.S. farmers into the world marketplace. Agricultural products are now being used as an effective tool of diplomacy and an instrument of peace, as well as contributing to a favorable balance of payments.

Besides giving the United States more bargaining power, exports have emphasized the importance of U.S. agriculture to the world economy. This has led to a new way of looking at the American farmer and rural living in general. And that's reflected in our agricultural colleges, where enrollment more than doubled in the past decade. Those same institutions were once referred to as "cow colleges" and their students were known as "hayseeds," reflecting the fact that—agrarian mythology to the contrary—agriculture as an occupation ranked low on the totem pole until World War II.

These developments, as well as this Nation's new emphasis on market-oriented agriculture and all-out production, have also brought a breath of fresh air to rural institutions. These include the rural bankers, feed and seed handlers, farm machinery dealers, and others whose well-being depends on the American farmers.

Probably the best indicator of change in rural America, though, is farm numbers. During the 1960's, the country was losing more than 100,000 farms a year. The rate of loss now stands at a fraction of that number. And the farm population itself has stabilized at around 9.5 million people—after losing 21 million people after 1940.

Many states in the West, particularly Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, bear witness to this sweeping change. Each of these States lost thousands of people during the 1960's. But from 1970-73, all reported sizable numbers of new residents.

Most demographers think this trend will continue. First of all, there's the simple fact that census experts predict there'll be 50 million more Americans by the end of the century who are going to need a place to live.

A more unexpected development—at least until a few years ago—also points to rural population growth in the West. That's our fuel crunch and the subsequent need to tap new sources of energy. Lying beneath the Northern Great Plains States of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska are enormous coal reserves. USDA economists predict that extensive coal development could swell that region's population more than 40 percent by 1985.

The infusion of new residents in the Northern Great Plains and other rural sectors will bring economic opportunities undreamed of a few years back. But it will also mean some tough social adjust-

ments and a strain on rural facilities unless State and local leaders act now to assure orderly development in their communities.

Once decisions are made at the local level, there's a lot the Federal Government can do to help. Here's what several USDA agencies are doing right now . . . which gives a pretty clear idea about the pace at which rural America is growing.

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) made an estimated 125,400 housing loans in fiscal 1975—compared with 54,866 such loans in 1969. By the end of fiscal 1974, FmHA had financed more than 8,000 community water or sewer projects.

Rural development specialists with USDA's Cooperative Extension Service now number around 700—twice the number in 1969. Last year, Extension employees in the Nation's 3,150 counties devoted 1,573 man-years to rural development assistance.

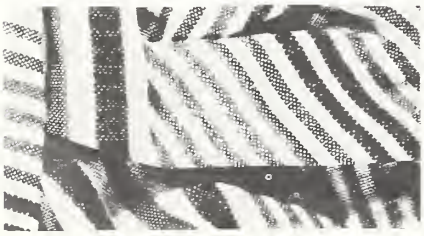
In fiscal 1975, the Rural Electrification Administration loaned or guaranteed repayment of loans by private lenders totaling $2,286 million, compared with $470 million in 1969.

Because of rural America's importance to the well-being of the rest of the country and the world, a number of other Federal departments are actively involved in rural development. Their assistance programs have doubled and redoubled in recent years. □

NEWS

Down Go The Mean Old Germs

Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service may soon be putting the finishing touches on cotton fabrics that will kill or inhibit the growth of unwanted bacteria. Such fabrics would prove particularly useful in bandages, hospital gowns, sheets and pillowcases, and in wearing apparel with a built-in deodorant. While an effective and practical germicidal finish is close to reality, researchers emphasize that to be useful for items other than bandages, it would have to be durable enough to withstand 50 launderings—the normal life-span of products like sheets and pillowcases. Right now the treatment still "works" through 20 washings.



From the Balance Sheet

USDA economists report that farms with sales of $20,000 or more controlled more than 70% of total farm assets in 1973. They also owed 77% of the Nation's entire farm debt. Farms selling over $20,000 in products have become the most important segment in American agriculture. Between 1960 and 1973, this number increased from a tenth to a third of all farms and then sales rose from about half to nearly nine-tenths of the U.S. total.

This Plant Will Self-destruct

Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are involved in a 20-year study program aimed at getting the witchweed to turn on itself, and, in effect, commit suicide.

Native to Africa and India, witchweed attacks the roots of at least 60 species of the grass family, including corn, sugarcane, wheat, and rice. In the United States, witchweed has been confined to parts of North and South Carolina, thanks to a vigorous quarantine and control program. But because the weed will thrive anywhere its hosts grow, it poses a major threat to U.S. agriculture.

Research centers on strigol, a substance given off by the host plants that causes witchweed to germinate and attack its hosts. With synthesized strigol, the scientists hope to cause witchweed to germinate in the absence of a host, and then to do itself in.

Farm Exports Boost Trade Surplus

Secretary Butz recently reported that U.S. agricultural exports in the fiscal year just ended reached an all-time high of $21.6 billion—producing a $12 billion surplus in our agricultural trade.

This $12 billion agricultural surplus made up deficits of $9.8 billion in non-agricultural trade, giving the United States an over-all favorable balance of trade of $2.2 billion for fiscal 1975, the second straight year of trade surpluses. The surpluses in 1974 and 1975 were made possible by strong positive balances in agricultural trade.

"The surplus in agricultural trade the past year has helped to stabilize the dollar, to strengthen our international economic position, and to pay for high-cost petroleum imports," the Secretary said. "Imported petroleum cost over $25 billion in fiscal 1975, and in a very real sense these imports were paid for by U.S. grains, soybeans, and other farm product exports.

"Moreover, this high level of exports was essential to American farmers, who have expanded crop acreage in order to meet world market needs. During the past fiscal year, exports required the production from 96 million acres of U.S. cropland—one out of every 3½ acres harvested in calendar 1974. Around two-thirds of the wheat and rice output, over half of the soybeans and cattle hides, around two-fifths of the tobacco, over one-third of the cotton, and about one-fourth of the feed grains went to overseas markets in fiscal 1975.

"Without continued large exports, farm acreage would inevitably be reduced—under the weight of falling farm prices, government restrictions, or a combination of the two."

Outlook In November

The National Agricultural Outlook Conference will be held in USDA's Jefferson Auditorium in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 17-20.

The Conference, which is sponsored annually by USDA's Economic Research Service and Extension Service, features presentations and panel discussions by leading authorities in agriculture and business on commodities and family living concerns. This year's Outlook Conference will emphasize the 1976 outlook for U.S. agriculture, the general economy, inputs, and foreign agricultural trade.

Freezing Our Future Crops

Just how believable are those reports that ancient grain seeds found in Egyptian crypts germinated upon reaching the proper medium? Or that a 2,000 year-old Indian lotus seed, found in China, was still viable and able to develop into a plant? Those seed stories may or may not be true, but we know one that is.

Agricultural Research Service Plant physiologist *Lowell W. Woodstock* and botanist *Eltora M Schroeder* of the Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center recently found that freeze-drying vegetable seeds increases their storage life by at least four times that attained by conventional drying methods. Freeze-dried seeds store better at warm temperatures than conventionally dried seeds. This, they say, could lead to improved storability in warm climates and better transport of seeds through the tropics. Freeze drying will also mean longer seed storage life in marketing channels. A third benefit will be superior plant characteristics from genetically diverse germplasm which is often lost using conventional seed storage techniques.

Meaty Assumptions

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will assume responsibility for inspecting meat poultry plants operating in intrastate commerce in Connecticut and Tennessee as of this October 1. The two states requested the action under provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. These Acts

require USDA to assume responsibility for inspecting intrastate meat or poultry plants in States which are unwilling or unable to conduct an inspection program that is equal to the federal program.

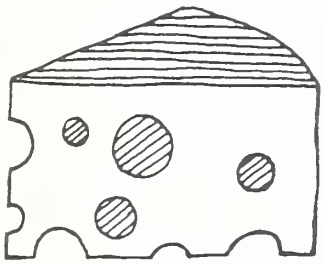
Connecticut and Tennessee asked for federal inspection because each was unable to continue funding of its respective state inspection program. They join New York, New Jersey, and Colorado as the fourth and fifth States to request federal inspection of all or a portion of their intrastate plants so far this year. North Dakota became the first State to give up its inspection responsibilities in June 1970. Since that time, 15 States have been designated for meat inspection and 22 States for poultry inspection. Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam also are included under USDA inspection authority.

Say "Cheese"

A recent report issued by the Economic Research Service has a lot to say about cheese. *The Cheese Industry* notes that fewer plants are manufacturing natural cheeses these days, but there's a trend toward larger plants and production per plant is rising. Result? Production in 1973 nationally was more than four-fifths larger than in 1960.

ERS also found that fewer plants manufacture American and Swiss type natural cheeses. The Italian types are gaining ground.

If you think Wisconsin when you think cheese, you're right. Wisconsin is the leading state in production of each of the major cheeses types except Swiss. Illinois puts holes in its northern neighbor's record in that category.



Don't Need'em Anymore

The last government-owned commodity storage structures used to store farm surpluses have been sold.

Nine 38,000 bushel capacity steel quonset-type buildings, most recently used for peanut storage, were auctioned off to the highest bidders at sites near Emporia and Boykins, Va., in August. The auction marked the end of an era spanning 35 years in which surplus wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, and other commodities acquired from farmers under price support operations were stored in government-owned structures. In 1959, USDA-owned storage capacity totaled 990 million bushels.

Kenneth Frick, administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the final sale marks a significant milestone in getting government out of agriculture.

"In addition to the costs of storing commodities in these structures, government-held reserves in commercial storage once cost taxpayers a million dollars a day. Today, these reserves are in the hands of individual farmers, processors and distributors. Now, farmers earn their income from the marketplace instead of selling their crops to the government.

"This results in a plentiful supply of food for the consumer and in prosperity for the American farmers," he said.

Purchase of the commodity storage structures began in 1939. As a farm surpluses piles up in the late 1940s and 1950s, thousands of additional bins and other buildings were acquired. Additional surpluses were also stored in mothballed ships in the Hudson River in New York and in many other places.

Disposal of the storage facilities began in the mid-1960s, but the pace was accelerated in 1971, as the direction of farm policy changed. The Agricultural Act of 1970 shifted emphasis to a market-oriented agriculture. Meanwhile, growth in on-the-farm storage and a boom in agricultural exports reduced the need for government involvement. The sales were mostly completed by October 1974, as farmers purchased many of the structures for storage use on their own farms.

No Insects, Naturally

Control of Insects on Deciduous Fruits and Tree Nuts in the Home Orchard—Without Insecticides is a new publication that gives the home gardener exactly what its title promises.

The new Agricultural Research Service bulletin outlines methods for controlling insect pests that either exclude using insecticides or minimize their use. For example, to control Japanese beetle the publication suggests applying milky spore disease to the soil. An inexpensive way of getting rid of a lot of the beetles is to simply catch them in traps. When only a few trees are infested, the beetles can be shaken from the tree, caught in sheets on the ground and drowned in a bucket of water topped with kerosene.

Color photographs and illustrations of the insects and their damage make it easy to pinpoint which insect is doing the damage. Separate sections cover each fruit and nut tree commonly found in the home garden.

Copies of *Control of Insects on Deciduous Fruits and Tree Nuts in the Home Orchard—Without Insecticides* (HG-211) may be purchased for 90 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Spain *Retires* FROM Florida.

OR, HOW AMERICA *picked up FLORIDA for* $5 million.

No luxury hotels. No drinks served at the pool.

Just sand and palms and alligators. And a lot of fighting for it that destroyed property throughout Florida.

Americans in Florida figured Spain owed them $5,000,000 in property damages.

Our government offered to pick up the tab for Spain, if Spain would retire from Florida. Spain accepted. And was out.

You know, money from our citizens helped pay for things back then. And it still does.

Today, you can help with U.S. Savings Bonds. And at the same time, they let you build savings. Easily. Automatically.

This happens when you join the Payroll Savings Plan, or buy Bonds where you bank. Year after year, you accumulate more and more savings. And it can add up to a bundle.

So maybe you'd better start this week. Because, someday, you'll have to retire, too.

Now E Bonds pay 6% interest when held to maturity of 5 years (4½% the first year). Interest is not subject to state or local income taxes, and federal tax may be deferred until redemption.

Take stock in America.

200 years at the same location.

PERSON TO PERSON

For some people a vacation means in the mountains, on the beach, or just going fishing. But to *Mary Dean* and *Maurice Futrell* of Starkville, Miss. it means two weeks on Ailigande Island off the coast of Panama teaching Cuna Indians how to grow their own food and to prepare it.

The Cuna Indians were driven from Panama by the Spaniards in the 1500s. They took refuge on the island and have lived there ever since, preserving the ceremonies and traditions of their culture.

For the past three summers, the Futrells, both of whom have Ph.D. degrees, have spent two weeks of their vacation on the tiny island working with missionaires in the field of agriculture and nutrition. Dr. Maurice Futrell is a research plant pathologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Mississippi State University. Mrs. Futrell is a nutritionist in the MSU home economics department.

Ailigande is one of the 60 inhabited islands in the San Blas chain of some 300 islands which lie a quarter of a mile off the eastern coast of Panama. The island has no roads, no cars or bicycles, no policemen or jails. Until a few years ago, water had to be transported from the mainland and was a precious commodity. Today, thanks to people like the Futrells, the 2010 islanders have water piped in from the mainland, an elementary school, a 40-bed hospital, a library, a church, and even a six-room hotel.

The Futrell's interest in this work began in 1972 when Maurice was asked by the Agricultural Missions Foundation to consult with the Baptist mission on Ailigande on the planting of different varieties of corn and other crops.

When Mrs. Futrell viewed slides her husband had taken on the island, she observed classical cases of protein and vitamin deficiency. She decided to add her training and experience as a nutritionist to her husband's talents in helping the Cunas. In December of 1972 she accompanied him to the island and worked at the feeding center which prepares two meals a day for children.

The Futrell's next journey to Ailigande was in July of 1974. During the 18 months between their visits a farm had been developed on the island. On each of his visits to the island, Dr. Futrell has taken new kinds of seeds to try on the farm. In the summer of 1974 he took collard green seeds, not expecting them to grow there. Today the greens are flourishing better than any other green vegetable and are a favorite with the children, he said. He has also introduced the protapea, an excellent source of protein. This summer he took a new variety of sweet potato and also planted a mung bean nursery. The corn variety he introduced in 1972 is now yielding 80-100 bushels per acre. During this summer's visit he also made recommendations for the best kinds of grass to be planted for the pasture being established for the cows.

The farm has become a showplace of agriculture for Central America. It is used as a training ground for young men from other San Blas islands. It was recently selected by the Panamanian government as a training farm for college students who are required to receive practical experience on a farm before graduating.

The Futrells came to MSU in 1966 after two years with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Nigeria. They received their doctorates from the University of Wisconsin and spent two years at Texas A & M, before the Nigerian assignment. Dr. Maurice Futrell has participated in consulting assignments in Mexico, Ecuador, West Africa and India.

Story and photo by Shirley Carley
Used with the permission of
the *Starkville* (Miss.) *Daily News*

Dr. Mary Dean Futrell *(left) and* Dr. Maurice Futrell *display a colorful mola brought back from their two-week stay in the San Blas Islands of the coast of Panama, where they worked with missionaries to the Cuna Indians on Ailigandi Island. The design is made by the Cuna women by arranging and cutting layers of various colored cloth to tell a story. The molas are used on native dresses and blouses, for pillows and other items.*

PEOPLE

Career Man Named Assistant Secretary

Richard E. Bell was recently sworn in as assistant secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. The career official joined the Department of Agriculture 16 years ago and has served as deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs since June 1973. He succeeds *Clayton Yeutter* who resigned to become President Ford's deputy special trade representative.

In his new post, *Bell* directs the operations of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the Foreign Agricultural Service. He also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Trade Specialist Named Deputy Assistant Secretary

Dale Sherwin, former Michigan farmer who has been doing liaison work with Congress for USDA recently was named deputy assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs. Sherwin succeeds *Richard E.* Bell, who recently was appointed assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs.

New General Counsel

James D. Keast recently assumed the duties of USDA's General Counsel. Keast was *USDA's* assistant general counsel from August 1971 until August 1972 when he left to become a partner in the firm of Armstrong, Teasdale, Kramer & Vaughn. He succeeded *John A. Knebel,* who resigned in April.

Chief Administrative Law Judge

John A. Campbell was recently appointed USDA's chief administrative law judge, succeeding *Harry S. McAlpin*, who retired last December. *Campbell* has been acting chief administrative law judge since January.

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.
Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

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'USDA'

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Still Catching Up

The week of September 14 through 20 was designated as National Hispanic Heritage Week by President Ford. This honor had special meaning for the 5.3 percent of our Nation's population that is of Spanish descent. But it was also a time for other Americans to look at the contributions which Spanish-speaking individuals have already made to the Nation and to consider the present and future roles of Hispanics in America.

Over the last 5 years, the Federal community has emphasized its commitment to Spanish-speaking Americans. In 1970, the government promulgated a 16-Point Program for the Spanish Speaking, initiating a special effort to insure equal opportunities for Spanish-speaking Americans to compete for Federal jobs. As some of its goals were met, the program's name was changed to the Spanish Speaking Program in 1974. From 1970 to 1974, Hispanic employment in the Federal government rose from 2.9 to 3.19 percent of the workforce.

At the Department of Agriculture the Spanish Speaking Program is a special emphasis area within the total equal employement opportunity effort. The program's goals include:

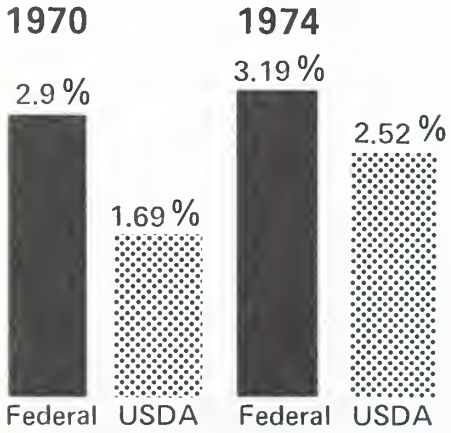
- Expanding recruitment at colleges, universities, vocational schools, and high schools where there are high Spanish-speaking enrollments;
- Improving the Department's and agencies' relationships with Spanish-speaking organizations and communities by increased contacts and participation in activities.
- Increasing the number of Spanish-descent students in cooperative education programs, student-trainee programs, work study programs, and programs for the disadvantaged.

Each USDA agency has a Spanish Speaking Program coordinator at its Washington, D.C., headquarters to guide the program within the agency. These coordinators meet monthly to study the participation of Spanish-descent employees in promotion and training opportunities, to evaluate EEO objectives to see that Spanish-descent employees are included, and to discuss other areas of concern to Hispanics in the Department. Open meetings on the program have been held in Washington, D.C. A recent workshop in Cheyenne, Wyo., drew more than fifty Federal and State participants interested in USDA's program.

Some progress has been made since the Spanish-speaking program was announced for special EEO emphasis in the Department. When the original 16-Point Program was initiated, Hispanic employment in USDA stood at 1.69 percent of all full-time employees. By 1974, that figure had risen to 2.52 percent. But current statistics also show that almost 26 percent of all Hispanics employed by the Department work in wage-grade positions, where they constitute 16.9 percent of USDA's full-time wage-grade work force. White collar Hispanics make up only 1.9 percent of USDA's full-time white collar employees.

National Hispanic Heritage Week provided a good opportunity to review the record and renew efforts to provide equal opportunity for jobs, promotions, and training for Spanish-descent employees in the Department.

Employment of Spanish-Origin Persons



NEWS

Free Books

USDA has books to burn. There are surplus stacks of the 1965, 1966, and 1967 yearbooks of agriculture here in Washington. But rather than burn them, the Office of Communication is offering them FREE to USDA employees on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The 1965 yearbook, *Consumers All*, still ranks as Agriculture's all time best seller. It contains a wealth of information on how to buy and maintain everything from houses to homogenized milk. Along the way it gives tips on furniture, appliances, finances, lawn care, clothing repairs, and any number of things consumers have questions about.

The 1966 yearbook, *Protecting Our Food*, describes the means used to keep food free from insects, diseases, and bacteria. It outlines the roles played by both government and industry in maintaining a pure food supply.

The 1967 yearbook, *Outdoors USDA*, focuses on recreation, vacation, and beautification in our national forests, on lakes and rivers and throughout the rural countryside. Whether you like to hike, bike, or "shunpike" it will give you ideas.

To get free copies of any of the above books, send a self-addressed mailing label, to *USDA*, USDA Office of Communication, Rm. 545-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Be SURE to tell us which book or books you are interested in.

Farmers Aren't Shafting Consumers

"The consumers of America can take heart that Wholesale Price Index (WPI) figures released in September show once again that farmers are doing a tremendous job of slowing down inflation in the nation," Secretary of Agriculture *Earl L. Butz* recently told the Nation's news media.

"During August," Secretary Butz said, "wholesale prices for farm products dropped 1.5 percent, seasonally adjusted. This is the sixth month in the last nine that seasonally-adjusted farm wholesale prices have declined, as contrasted with industrial commodity prices, which have increased each of the last nine months.

"The average wholesale price level for all the nation's commodities has declined

in five of the last nine months—and each time the drop in farm prices has been responsible for the decline," Secretary Butz pointed out.

"There is no slow-down of production on the nation's cropland," Secretary Butz said. "Farmers are busy producing the largest wheat and corn crops in history. They have gone all out to produce more food grains and feed grains in 1975—and there is no better antidote to inflation than increased production.

"The critics of the sale of grain to the Soviet Union should read today's wholesale price figures," Secretary Butz suggested. "They will find that the Department of Labor WPI figures show that farm wholesale prices for grain are nearly 15 percent less than a year ago.

"Who else has taken substantial cuts in prices for their products from a year ago," Secretary Butz asked, "and especially when the cost of producing grain and other farm products has gone up 8 percent from a year ago?

"The sale of grain to the Soviet Union has not raised consumers' costs a nickel yet, and will have a minimal effect in the months ahead," Secretary Butz said.

"Farmers have to export two-thirds of their wheat and rice, half of their soybeans, more than a third of their cotton, and a fourth of their feed grain. We have lots of it to sell, and if we don't export it we'll be wallowing in farm surpluses and wailing about where the money is coming from to buy the imported petroleum, essential minerals, and the many products that we must have from overseas to maintain our level of living and keep consumer costs down," Secretary Butz concluded.

Public Gets a Crack at Forest Management

The Forest Service is giving the U.S. public a chance to say how national forests should be managed in the future.

The FS recently issued a draft inventory of natural resources which asseses some two-thirds of the United States of the United States—about 1.6 billion acres of forest and rangeland.

With this assessment FS also issued a draft environmental statement. The statement outlines eight resource management alternatives that might be followed in providing goods and services from the national forests.

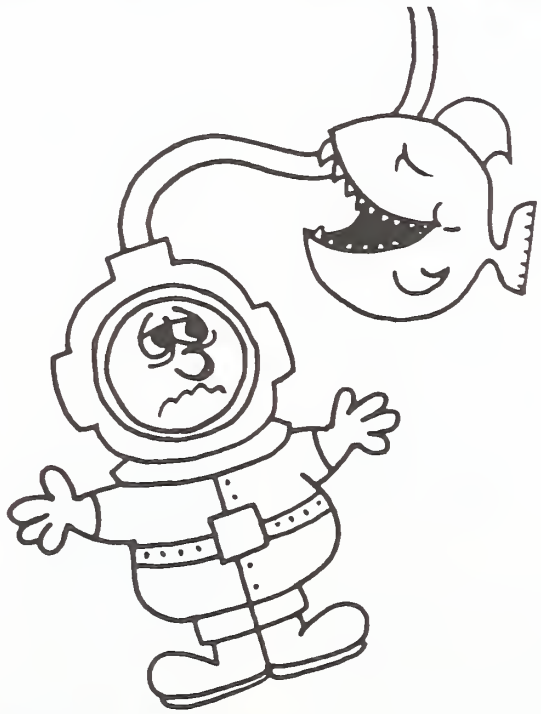
The public can comment through Oct. 15 on both the 386-page *Assessment* and the 624-page *Program Alternatives*. A 129-page summary of the two documents is also available.

Anyone who wants a copy of the summary or who would like to review the data contained in the complete *Assessment* or *Program* documents should contract the nearest Forest Service office.

Comments should be sent to: Chief, USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. In addition, comments can be presented at public hearings to be held in 14 cities in September.

After public comment, the FS will recommend a renewable resource program to the Secretary of Agriculture. He, in turn, will make a recommendation to the President for submission to Congress.

Perform a death-defying act.



Have your blood pressure checked.

Give Heart Fund
American Heart Association

How Does Your County Grow

Higher family incomes and more women in the labor force characterize nonmetropolitan U.S. counties that are gaining in population, according to recent Economic Research Service report.

The ERS study notes that another sign of economic health for such population-gaining counties is the relatively higher employment rates in manufacturing industries. In contrast, nonmetro counties consistently losing population have higher than average employment in low-wage industries such as agriculture and mining.

Other characteristics of the population gainers:

- They have a lower proportion of dependent segments of the population such as children and elderly.
- The ratio of males to females is higher.
- Years of schooling of racial minorities is higher for population-losing countries.
- Employment in white collar occpations is higher.
- The percentage of families living in poverty is lower.

Slurping Even Mothers Will Approve

Agricultural Research Service scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill., have developed a "super slurper" capable of absorbing 2,000 times its weight in water.

The super slurpers, chemically known as hydrolyzed starch-polyacrylonitrile graft copolymers, can be made as films, thin mats, flakes, or powders.

Potential uses of the product include disposable diapers, surgical sponges and other medical items, kitty litter, seed coatings, and soil conditioners.

Basic studies aimed at learning what makes a slurper and how to control it are continuing at the lab.

Record Number Participate In Technical Assistance

A record 450 technicians—about 100 more than last year—participated in USDA overseas technical assistance programs during fiscal year 1975.

In addition, 1305 agriculturists from Asia, Africa, the Mideast, and Latin America studied at U.S. universities, with private firms and foundations, and with USDA, which arranges the training. This is about the same number as last year.

USDA assistance to developing nations is sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), international organizations, and governments of foreign countries.

States Get Less This Year

Over $88 million will be divided by 39 states and Puerto Rico as their shares of over $360 million received from the sale and use of National Forest products and services during fiscal year 1975.

Last year the states received almost $118 million as their share of the over $470 million in total National Forest receipts. This year's reduction primarily reflects a lower volume of timber cutting in the National Forests.

The money being returned to the states comes from the sale of timber and from grazing, recreation, minerals, and other land use charges on National Forests. It is used for public schools and roads.

Forest Service uses 10 percent of the receipts to build and maintain roads and trails in the National Forests, and the remainder, with certain exceptions provided by law, goes to the U.S. Treasury.

Fewer Disasters

The number of farmers filing applications for natural disaster-related assistance has fallen 35 percent from a year ago, according to recent figures. Generally favorable weather conditions throughout much of the country was the major reason cited as the cause of the reduction.

Under provisions of the disaster payment program, farmers who have a wheat, feed grain or upland cotton allotment may be eligible for payments should a natural disaster affect the production of these crops.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service says 75,420 applications have been received to date while at the same time last year, 115,627 applications had been made.

ASCS, which administers the program, made disaster payments of about $552.4 million to 318,000 farms during the 1974 program year.

New Lab for Lincoln

USDA officials chose Lincoln, Neb. as the site for a new federal meat and poultry inspection laboratory, scheduled to be in operation approximately a year from now.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says the multi-disciplinary laboratory will employ about 30 persons and will provide analytical services to federal meat and poultry inspection personnel. The lab will be used as a back-up for inspectors in the Midwest who need to run a variety of tests on specimens from food products and animal tissues. The lab will check for levels of water, fat, and minimum protein in meat and poultry products. In addition, the lab will test for residues of pesticides and growth promotants.

PEOPLE

International Recognition

Dr. Ralph W. Phillips, Director of the International Organization Affairs for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, recently received the International Animal Agriculture Award from the American Society of Animal Science. Phillips was recognized for his efforts since 1943 to develop international approaches to food and agriculture problems with special emphasis on the problems of livestock industry.

Helped State Communicators

Robert McMillen, Confidential Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, was recently recognized for his service to the Communications Officers of State Departments of Agriculture. McMillen, who came to USDA from the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture, was the first President of COSDA. The organization honored him for his "viable, visible, and unified approach for developing rapport among information officers of state departments of agriculture."

Beltsville Scientist Honored

Agricultural Research Service engineer *William A. Bailey* was recently elected a Senior Member of The American Society of Agricultural Engineers in recognition of his distinguished achievements. *Bailey's* major contributions include the development of a system for studying moisture absorption in cotton lint after drying and the development of a data acquisition system for studying the use of water on the farmstead.

Chief for a Day

Sherry Rickey of Coon Rapids, Iowa, was recently "Chief of the Forest Service" for a day as part of the Girls Nation meeting in Washington, D.C. Girls Nation is sponsored annually by the American Legion Auxiliary to give young women a chance to observe their Government in action.

It's Down on Paper

Dr. George R. Foster and *Dr. Walter H. Wischmeier* with the Agricultural Research Service in Lafayette, Ind., received one of seven 1975 Paper Awards presented by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. The paper, on "Evaluating Irregular Slopes for Soil Loss Prediction," was among 291 entries in the competition.

New Attaches

Wilfred L. Phillipsen has been appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece. He succeeds *James Frink*, who is returning to Washington for reassignment.

Alvin E. Gilbert has become the agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. He succeeds *Stanley W. Phillips*, who is returning to Washington for reassignment.

Abner E. Deatherage is the new agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. He succeeds *Harry Bryan*, who is being reassigned.

Paul J. Ferree has been appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. He succeeds *Dale K. Vining*, who is returning to Washington for reassignment.

Walter A. Stern has become the agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. He succeeds *Tilmer O. Engebretson*, who has returned to Washington for reassignment.

Ag Economists Vote

ERS Deputy Administrator *Dr. Kenneth R. Farrell* was recently elected president of the American Agricultural economics Association. He will serve as president-elect for a year, assuming the presidency in August 1976.

PERSON TO PERSON

Lots of people were up in the air last year when speed limits were reduced to 55 miles per hour. *Charlie Carlisle* of the Food and Nutrition Service is still up there—literally—and he doesn't intend to come down.

Carlisle uses his private airplane during his travels as a district manager for FNS in the agency's West-Central region. He was averaging 30,000 miles of travel a year out of his home base in Dallas when the new speed limit was enforced. His district, the largest in the West-Central region, covers part of Texas and all of Oklahoma.

"I felt my travel time would increase about 25 percent if I continued to drive everywhere," Carlisle remembers. "So I started using may plane whenever possible."

The savings in time is obvious. A trip from Dallas to Tulsa by car takes 5 hours. By plane, it's just over an hour. "I'm spending more time on the job and less enroute than ever before," Carlisle reports.

Carlisle doesn't have an instrument rating, which means he is grounded during bad weather. But this doesn't happen often and before leaving town he always checks the long-range weather forecast.

Carlisle says his expenses are not much more than they would be if he used a car. Airplane fuel is about 71¢ a gallon, just about 15¢ more than the gasoline he puts in his car. Those higher gas costs are balanced by a slightly higher mileage allowance—22¢ for flying his plane vs. 15¢ per mile for driving—and lower parking costs. Parking his airplane for the day costs nothing while overnight tie-downs run only a few dollars.

Of course, you have to have a plane to start with. Carlisle became a pilot 25 years ago after a stint with the Navy whetted his appetite for flying. He has owned six different plantes and would eventually like to be an antique plane dealer.

He started with FNS in 1966 as a food program specialist in Nachitoches, La. The next year he moved to the regional office in Dallas to join the food distribution program. He became a district manager in 1971.

Despite the fact that flying is becoming more and more a part of his business, Carlisle still considers it fun. His is one hobby that has paid off.

Story by Melanie Watts, FNS

BELOW

Charlie Carlisle *used to fly a Mooney Mark 21 single-engine plane on his rounds as a FNS district manager. He recently traded it for a Commanche 250—his sixth plane in 25 years of flying.*

COMMENTS

One Woman's Viewpoint

I have been a federal food inspector for 3 years. I like my job and try to do my best at whatever I am doing.

As a woman, I feel the important thing is being able to communicate with management and supervisors, working out our problems to everyones satisfaction.

I wear a hard hat for my protection, not to make me look liberated, and knives and scabbards are no different from a sewing machine or any other tools you need to get a job done.

I am proud to be a woman in action and I hope to have contributed something to the people of our nation.

H.V.S., APHIS
Fredericktown, MO

More Distinguished Women

I have just finished reading USDA dated June 25, 1975, on "Women's Progress in USDA." I looked in vain for mention of four outstanding International Agricultural Economists who made their distinctive contributions to the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Economic Research Service from the mid 1940's until the early 1970's. They were *Lois Bacon, Karen Friedman, Elfrieda Krause,* and *Pauline Michael.*

Incidentially, you remark that *Rosine Plank* is the second Ms. Assistant Agricultural Attache to have served FAS. In 1967, I succeeded *Donna Hersey*, the first, in our Embassy in The Hague, and in 1974 I was replaced by Rosine Plank at the U.S. Mission to the European Communities in Brussels.

FAS is fortunate to have attracted a number of top-notch agricultural economists in more recent years who happen to be women. Their contributions to the vitality of this organization today are substantial.

D.W.R., FAS
Ottawa, Canada

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Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Water Rules Would Hamper Farm Operations

Dredge-and-fill regulations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers threaten to impose cumbersome, time-consuming procedures on farmers and ranchers every time they clean a ditch or build a pond, according to *Robert W. Long,* assistant secretary of agriculture for conservation, research, and education.

The new rules were designated as "interim final" when the Corps put them into effect July 25, 1975. They gradually extend the authority of the Corps of Engineers beyond its traditional responsibility for "navigable waters" and extend that authority over all the "waters of the United States." This jurisdiction will expand gradually in a three-phase program over the next 2 years.

Phase I, effective July 25, 1975, extends the existing permit procedures now applicable to traditional "navigable waters of the United States" to also include adjacent wetlands. Phase II, effective July 1, 1976, will initiate regulation of discharges of dredged material or fill into primary tributaries of "navigable waters of the United States," natural lakes greater than five acres in surface area, and their adjacent wetlands.

Phase III, after July 1, 1977, will extend the Corps of Engineers' authority to regulate discharges of dredge or fill material into other "navigable waters" generally up to the headwaters, where the streams flow less than five cubic feet per second.

Definitions of lakes, headwaters, and terms associated with dredge and fill operations have been drawn to exclude from the regulation normal farming and ranching operations. However, some projects undertaken by farmers, such as damming of small streams, or diking, dredging, or filling of wetlands might require permits.

Assistant Secretary Long said that the Corps has admitted that the average dredge-and-fill application will require at least 4 months to process and that "built-in delays" could extend the time still longer.

"Also," he said, "farmers will have to pay a $100 fee if the quantity of material to be discharged exceeds 2,500 cubic yards. These are needless burdens on farmers already burdened by too many reports and too much Government paperwork."

Long also criticized the new regulations for vagueness and ambiguous definitions.

"They make it the prerogative of each Army district engineer," he said, "to determine that areas not specified in the regulations are navigable waters and subject to permit requirements. Such important decisions should not be left to the whim and caprice of district engineers, who conceivably could call anything a navigable waterway that is capable of floating a 2-by-10 inch plank after a rainstorm."

Earlier this year, Secretary Butz opposed the new Corps regulations in response to requests by U.S. Senators for USDA views. Butz termed the scope of the new regulations "unbelievable."

"Millions of people, as they now operate, might be found to be violating the law," the Secretary pointed out. "They could be fined up to $25,000 a day and imprisoned for one year for violations.

"These proposals advocate a dangerous extension of the long hand of the Federal Government into the affairs of private citizens. They would set off a bureaucratic growth that would require many farmers to run to a Federal official for a permit to perform much of what is now normal farm work."

Butz went on to call the new rules a harassment to farmers and ranchers growing the food supply.

"Aside from the red tape and the cost of maintaining such bureaucracy," said Butz, "it would stake out an ill-conceived role for the Federal Government in rural land-use decisions, a subject better left to local and limited state control."

The Department of Agriculture has recommended that legislative action be taken to limit the coverage of the new regulations to conform to the new regulations to conform to the traditional "navigable" waterways concept.

The Corps of Engineers is accepting oral and written comments on the new regulations through October 25. Contact: Office of the Engineers, Forrestal Building, Washington, D.C. 20314, ATTN: DAEN-CWO-N. Public hearings are scheduled around the country during the month of September and a series of public information meetings to explain the new rules and their application is planned for a later date.

NEWS

OK, Kids, Eat Your Hearts Out

By joint resolution of Congress and Presidential proclamation, the week of October 12 was designated as National School Lunch Week. The School Lunch Program is now in its 29th year. During National School Lunch Week, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will promote activities that focus on good nutrition for young people.

Rural Development Credit at New High

Nearly $5.5 billion was made available for development of rural areas in fiscal year 1975 through the Farmers Home Administration. Over 215,000 loans that will be repaid accounted for $5.285 billion, and $181 million was disbursed through 1,138 grants in four different areas—farmer programs, housing, community facilities, and business and industry. All four of these program areas were funded at record levels in FY 1975.

Effective Public Administration

The Department-wide managerial and executive training programs for FY 1976 have been revised and improved to be more effective resources for training government executives.

USDA's *Executive Workshop in Agri-Dynamics* (EXAD) offers an opportunity to critically examine the management challenges present in some of the Department's major programs. Each session addresses one of the program missions described in the Department's *Policy for FY 1976-1980 Program and Financial Plan Proposals.* Problems related to the mission identified by the Department's assistant secretaries, then presented to the class for discussion by recognized subject matter experts from government, industry, special interest groups, and institutions of higher learning.

Supervisory and Managerial Strategies (SAMS) helps the modern supervisor/manager learn to deal effectively with problems of human behavior, work planning, resource allocations, organizational culture, and productivity. SAMS affords opportunities to learn techniques of effective supervision/management from recognized authorities, and to share experiences with other USDA supervisors and managers while seeking solutions to common problems.

The process of managing organizations is increasingly complex. *Problem Solving and Decision Making* (PSDM) provides USDA managers and supervisors with learning experiences that will enable them to apply prescribed problem analysis and decision making concepts to day-to-day problems.

See your agency training officer for information on eligibility if you are interested in any of the sessions of EXAD, SAMS, or PSDM listed below. For a brochure listing complete course information, the FY schedule for the three courses, and agency training officers, write: *Lloyd Stimson,* USDA-OP, Rm. 344-W, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please enclose a self-addressed mailing label with your request.

COURSE	DATE	LOCATIONS	NOMINATIONS DUE IN USDA-OP
SAMS	Jan. 18-23	Kansas City, Mo.	Dec. 4
PSDM	Jan. 25-30	Kansas City, Mo	Dec. 11
EXAD	Feb. 1-6	Washington, D.C.	Dec. 18
SAMS	Feb. 8-13	Washington, D.C.	Dec. 24
EXAD	Feb. 29-Mar. 5	Washington, D.C.	Jan. 15
PSDM	Mar. 7-12	Washington, D.C.	Jan. 22
SAMS	Mar. 14-19	Washington, D.C.	Jan. 29
EXAD	Mar. 28-Apr. 2	Washington, D.C.	Feb. 13
SAMS	Apr. 11-16	Denver, Colo.	Feb. 26
PSDM	Apr. 25-30	Washington, D.C.	Mar. 11
EXAD	May 2-7	Washington, D.C.	Mar. 18
SAMS	May 9-14	Washington, D.C.	Mar. 25
SAMS	May 16-21	Atlanta, Ga.	Apr. 1
SAMS	June 6-11	San Francisco, Calif.	Apr. 22
PSDM	June 13-18	San Francisco, Calif.	Apr. 29

World Agricultural Prospects

The world agricultural outlook continues to be more favorable than a year ago. This is true even though reductions in the estimates for the USSR, European, and U.S. grain crops since midsummer indicate tighter food supplies than thought earlier. A modest increase in world food production now seems in prospect.

Food supply prospects in the developing countries are much better than a year ago, particularly in Asia where good monsoon rainfall is contributing to record grain crops in India. China is looking forward to record harvests for the year. Despite record plantings of grains, oilseeds, and other food crops in Latin America, growth in agricultural output will be restricted by adverse weather which reduced yields. Except for below-average grain production in parts of North Africa, agricultural prospects are generally bright in most of Africa and West Asia.

World grain crops—no longer expected to reach record highs—are still likely to be well above last year's output. The significant decline in world wheat and coarse grain crop prospects since early summer has been concentrated in the countries which feed large amounts of grain to livestock. Prospects for the world rice harvest, much of which takes place late in the year, continue to improve.

The production shortfalls in many of the major grain feeding countries—particularly the USSR and Western and Eastern Europe—are forcing adjustments in the form of stock drawdowns, reduced feeding, or increased imports. The hoped-for increase in world grain stocks—which were somewhere near minimum levels at the beginning of 1975/76—has been frustrated by those shortfalls and smaller-than-expected availabilities in the United States. Thus, global grain stocks at the close of 1975/76 are not likely to be much larger than at the beginning of the period.

2.7 Million Hired Hands

A slight upturn in hired farm worker employment may have ended a 20-year trend.

The hired farm working force averaged 2.7 million people for 1972-74, up from 2.5 million in the previous 3 years.

This employment upturn came after a long-term decline which began in 1950, when there were 4.3 million hired farm workers.

The long-term decline in the proportion of hired farm workers who live on farms continued. In 1948-49, 65 percent of all hired farm workers lived on farms. Today, only 24 percent do.

The statistics which were compiled for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census, included all persons 14 years old or older who did farm wage-work at some time during the year.

Farming Investments Mean Jobs

What's good for farming is good for the economy—particularly if you consider how farmers' capital expenditures stimulate business activity.

According to analysis by the Economic Research Service, each dollar farmers spent on fixed capital items for farming stimulated over $2 worth of business in the economy. And more than 660,000 jobs were associated with these purchases. The study was based on 1971 expenditures.

In 1971 farmers spent $7 billion for all capital items, calling for a little over $15 billion in other business activity. The biggest chunk went for machinery—$4.9 billion. Buildings and other capital improvements accounted for the remainder.

Although purchases of farm machinery generated twice as much economic activity as buildings and other capital investments, nearly the same number of workers were affected by each category.

Wheat Sales and Bread Prices

"It is unrealistic for anyone to say that the mild recovery of wheat prices prompted by the Russian wheat sale will cause the price of bread to go up in any appreciable amount," Secretary Butz declared recently.

"The average price of wheat in Kansas City plunged $1.70 per bushel from last October to this June, yet this did not reduce the price of bread," he explained. "When average wheat prices in July recovered about 35 cents of that $1.70 drop, it didn't make sense to scream that this is going to increase bread prices.

"The fact is that wheat cost about 35 percent less in June than last October, and flour cost 3 cents a pound less. This didn't reduce bread prices, which proves one of two things: (1) either that price of wheat that farmers get has little to do with the price that consumers pay for bread, or (2) somebody was making exhorbitant profits during the last several months."

Pesticide Pinch to Ease Up

Pesticide shortages should ease substantially in 1976 after a 10 percent production increase boosted the 1975 pesticide supply.

The improved outlook, which is based on an Economic Research Service survey of firms that produce 75 percent of pesticides in the U.S., results from expanding production capacities and an easing of raw material shortages.

Supplies of most pesticides should be adequate or nearly adequate in 1975, thus enabling farmers to obtain them without many of the delays that occurred in 1974. Severe shortages resulted in 1974, when a 10 percent drop in supply was coupled with a 15 percent rise in demand.

Expansion of production facilities is a key factor in the supply improvement. Of 29 firms that responded to the survey, 21 are expanding or planning to expand.

Raw material shortages, which played a large part in the 1974 pesticide pinch, are also expected to lessen. While 80 percent of the firms experienced such shortages in 1974, only one-third reported shortages in 1975. However, energy shortages should continue to hamper pesticide production somewhat.

PEOPLE

New Head for SRS

William E. Kibler has been appointed administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS). He succeeds *Harry C. Trelogan*, who retired after heading the agency since 1961. Kibler, currently the statistician in charge of the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service for SRS, assumes his new position in November.

Assistant Director for USDA Research Center

Edward E. Alt of New Canaan, Conn., was recently named an assistant director of the Eastern Regional Research Center of USDA's Agricultural Research Service located in the Philadelphia suburb of Wyndmoor, Pa.

Dedicated to the Secretary

Secretary and *Mrs. Butz* were recently honored when the executive dining room at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. was dedicated as the Secretary's Room. The project was made possible through Indiana 4-H Foundation funds to honor the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture. Secretary Butz' home state is Indiana. At the dedication, the Secretary noted, "In the portrait we just hung, you see the little American flag and 4-H flag that have been on my desk for the past 20 years. They are always the first things I pack when I move to a new office."

Long List of Honors for ARS Personnel

Dr. Robert C. Buckner, ARS research leader and agronomist, Lexington, Ky., was recently elected Vice Chairman of the Crop Breeding, Genetics and Cytology Division of the Crop Science Society of America, Madison, Wisc.

Dr. Marcus S. Zuber, ARS research leader, Columbia, Mo., was elected Vice Chairman of the Crop Quality and Utilization Division of the Crop Science Society of America.

Dr. James R. Wilcox, ARS plant research geneticist, Lafayette, Ind.,; *Dr. Gerald E. Carlson*, ARS research agronomist, Beltsville, Md.; *Dr. Robert F. Barnes*, ARS research agronomist, University Park, Pa.; and *Dr. Gorden C. Marten*, ARS research leader, St. Paul, Minn., continue to serve as board members for the Crop Science Society of America.

Seven ARS scientists were recently chosen as Fellows of the American Society of Agronomy, during the society's annual meeting in Knoxville, Tenn. The new Fellows include:

- *Dr. John C. Brown*, ARS supervisory soil scientist, Plant Stress Laboratory, Beltsville, Md., for his research on the manner in which characteristics of soils and plants limit nutrient supply.
- *Dr. Robert C. Buckner*, ARS research agronomist, Lexington, Ky., for his research on genetics, breeding methods and improvement of cool-season grasses.
- *Dr. Ray O. Hammons*, ARS supervisory research geneticist and research leader, Tifton, Ga., for research on peanut breeding methodology, genetic systems, varietal development, genetic vulnerability, natural outcrossing, and host plant resistance to insects and diseases.
- *Dr. Gerald A. Jung*, ARS research leader, University Park, Pa., for research on the effects of low and high temperatures on plants, management of plants growing at different elevations, and factors that limit the nutritive value of herbage.
- *Dr. Gorden C. Marten*, ARS research leader and research agronomist, St. Paul, Minn., for research on forage management and utilization with emphasis on grazing techniques.
- *Dr. James D. Menzies*, retired chief of ARS' Biological Waste Management Laboratory, Beltsville, Md., for research on plant pathology and soil microbiology with respect to alfalfa and potatoes. His more recent work was on the disposal of sewage sludge and the use of animal wastes as feedstuffs.
- *Dr. Bobby Steward*, ARS research leader, Bushland, Tex., for research on fertilizer requirements for wheat and grain sorghum, nitrogen transformations, nitrogen-sulfur relationships, utilization and management of animal wastes, and control of nonpoint pollutants from agricultural sources.

Dr. Glenn W. Burton, ARS research geneticist, Tifton, Ga., recently received the 1975 Edward W. Browning Award for Improvement of Food Sources from the American Society of Agronomy. The award is made for outstanding contributions in increasing the production of crops and other food sources and consists of a $5,000 honorarium and a medal.

Dr. Frank Viets, Jr., retired ARS agronomist, was recently made an Honorary Member of the Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Viets' research was on mineral nutrition, soil fertility, soil-plant water relations and environmental pollution by animal feeding. He has won USDA Superior and Distinguished Service Awards for his research. He remains active as a con-

sulant to AID, several organizations and universities.

Dr. Virgil A. Johnson, research agronomist with ARS, Lincoln, Nebl, was one of two scientists recently honored by the Crop Science Society of America. Dr. Johnson received the society's Crop Science Award, which is presented annually to recognize outstanding research in crop science conducted within the past 10 years.

Dr. William E. Larson, ARS soil scientist, St. Paul, Minn., recently received the Crops and Soils Magazine Award from the American Society of Agronomy. Dr. Larson received a trophy and certificate for his article "Cities' Waste May Be Soils' Treasure" which appeared in the December 1974, issue of Crops and Soils Magazine.

Dr. Lynn K. Porter, ARS soil scientist, Fort Collins, Colo., was recently named divisional representative to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Agronomy. Dr. Porter will serve as director for the Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry Division for the society.

COMMENTS

Switch the Symbols But Don't Cross the River

I could not get too excited over the error of the "Helmet vs Dove," but I must protest the placement of Kansas City, MISSOURI, on the Kansas side of the river (*USDA*, July 23). As a former Missouri Mule, I would appreciate it if you would put the city back where it belongs.

Now aren't you sorry you sent that issue out.

J.J.E., APHIS
Gallipolis, Ohio

I'm sorry about my poor geography, but not sorry about sending that issue out. It prompted a letter from a "good humor" man. And that's a sweet treat after some of USDA's other recent mail!

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USDA Vol. 34, No. 19, October 1, 1975
Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.
Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

PERSON TO PERSON

Three years ago, Epsy Johnson and her husband H.K., a retired dentist, enjoyed a quiet, peaceful life together in the small town of Laurell, Miss.

Then the rural homemaker took a notion that was to drastically change the pace of their lives. "I was serving as cultural arts chairman for the National Extension Homemakers Council (NEHC)," Epsy explains. "Many states were reporting that they were involved in the restoration of old landmarks, and I saw this as a great idea for a book."

Not one to let an idea go to waste, Epsy sent out letters in May 1972 asking the states for more information on their projects. She also wanted information on other historic places to visit in each state. She promised the states that the information would be published in a book.

Epsy's kept that promise, but looking back now she admits, "I didn't realize what I was going to be in for." The homemaker-turned-author found herself writing 8 hours daily, working late into the night, giving up hobbies, and losing contact with neighbors and friends. "My husband says I served him the book for breakfast, lunch, and supper," she laughs!

The dogged work paid off recently when *Treasure Trails in the U.S.A.* was published. The book offers travelers 224-pages of maps, brief histories of each state, and a list of 50 to 100 historic, geographic, and economic places of interest to visit in each state.

Profits from the book, a Bicentennial project of the NEHC, are earmarked for NEHC leadership training and education purposes. So right now, Epsy and the NEHC's 600,000 other homemakers are busy promoting *Treasure Trails*. But Epsy's mind isn't idle. She's got another notion. Something like a sequel to *Treasure Trails in the U.S.A.* But she hasn't told H.K. yet. It's better to chew on one idea at a time!

Treasure Trails in the U.S.A. is available from Extension homemakers in your area for $3.95 a copy. Call your local Extension office for the name of the homemaker nearest you. Copies are also available from the North Plains Publishing Company, Box 910, Aberdeen, S.D. 57401.

On behalf of the 600,000 member National Extension Homemakers Council, Epsy Johnson *recently presented* Secretary Butz *with a copy of her new book,* Treasure Trails in the U.S.A. *The homemakers plan to use the book's proceeds to support their work.*

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Could We Have Predicted Soviet Grain Needs ?

Had it not been for a streak of dry weather, the Soviet Union would now be boasting a near-record harvest of grains for 1975. Instead, they have been forced to enter the world market in a big way, with 1974-75 grain imports expected to surpass the 1972-73 record. A hefty share will come from the U.S.

Could the U.S. have foreseen the Russian's sizeable grain needs? USDA statisticians and economists say that they could only guess, based on weather and Soviet planting activities. While the U.S. agricultural data collection system is geared toward forcasting the size of our crop production so that farmers can plan ahead, getting forecasts of Soviet grain production is next to getting blood from a turnip.

Soviet officials aren't much interested in forecasting crop output during the growing season. Their overriding concern is how to meet the production targets decreed by Moscow.

As for the individual Soviet farmer, crop prospects in the rest of the country have little impact on his operation. The state tells him what and how much to sell, and fixes the price beforehand. Most of the decisions have already been made for him.

But don't think that the Soviets are in the Dark Ages when it comes to gathering agricultural statistics. Far from it. Compared with the U.S. system, the Soviet set-up is more structured and complex. Also, a good part of the Russian data are more current than ours.

One of the main differences between our system and theirs is who uses the figures. This gets back to the reason the Soviets don't see the need for making agricultural forecasts in the first place.

In the U.S., primary users of data are the farmers themselves plus businessmen and others who rely on official statistics to help make decisions guiding their enterprises. In the U.S.S.R., government officials are the big clients. They need the information to develop agricultural plans and to see that they're carried out.

The U.S. Government freely shares agricultural intelligence with anybody who wants it. Great care is taken to assure the reports are made available to all users at the same time. For the most part, information in the Soviet system flows to officials only. That's basically why USDA is hampered in following USSR agriculture.

The contrasts between the two systems go deeper.

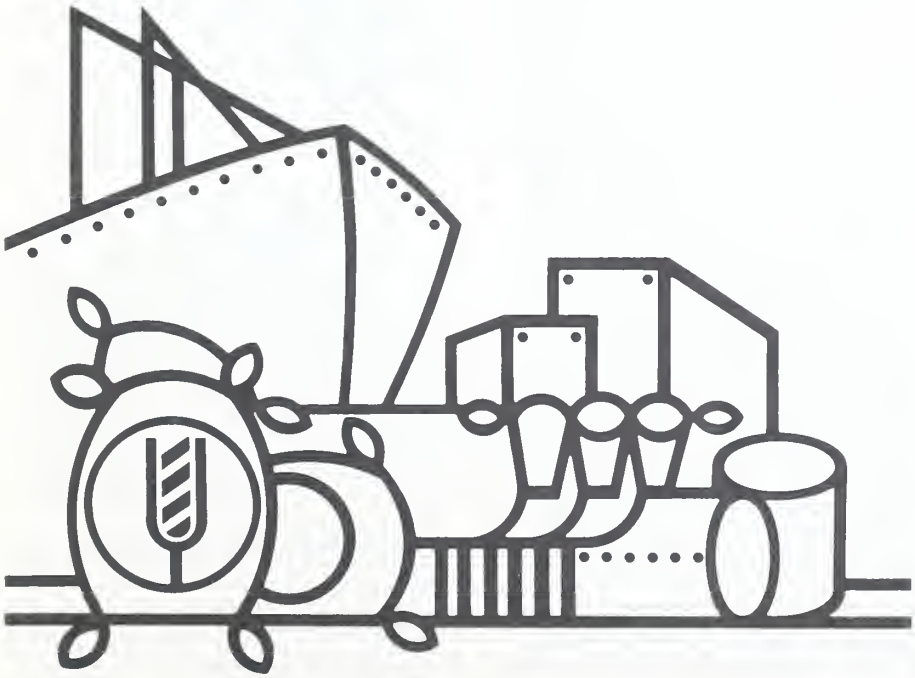
Consider first that we have more farms to count—roughly 2.5 million farms, most of them small, family operations. The Soviet Union has fewer than 50,000 large, socialized farms.

For our purposes the best way of gathering the most accurate data for the least amount of money is through the sampling technique, including questionnaires mailed to selected farms, personal interviews, and yield surveys. Participation by farmers is voluntary.

The Soviets, on the other hand, do a complete enumeration of collective and state farms. Farms refusing to cooperate pay stiff penalties.

Both countries collect basic data on crops and livestock—crop area, yield, production, livestock numbers, livestock products, stocks, and marketings. But in addition, the U.S. system emphasizes farmers' crop planting and livestock breeding intentions and forecasts of preharvest yields.

The basic data which the Soviets release do benefit U.S. analysts as they study Soviet agriculture. But as a leading producer and trader in farm products, the U.S. needs a better reading of *current* crop prospects in the USSR to assess the outlook for world agriculture. □



NEWS

Permit Office Moves

Travelers or importers wishing to bring foreign plants, soil, or plant products (fruit or vegetables) into the U.S. must now send their applications for federal permits to a new address.

After 30 years in Hoboken, N.J., USDA's permit office has moved to Hyattsville, Md.

James O. Lee, deputy administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, explained that permits are

HAPPINESS IS HELPING ONE'S NEIGHBORS

Secretary Butz has called on Department employees to lend a hand in meeting the goals of their local Combined Federal Campaigns.

"America's farmers are establishing a new record harvest to provide ample food supplies for all," the Secretary notes. "Let's match that achievement with a record 'harvest' of funds to help the less fortunate."

Last year's Combined Federal Campaign, operating in 506 locations, collected almost $61 million. That averaged out to $22.53 per contributor. A little more than 50 percent of the CFC contributors last year used payroll deductions, and those deductions accounted for 78.5 percent of the CFC total.

United Way received approximately $43 million of the CFC-collected funds last year. CFC contributed another $12 million to national health organizations, $4 million to international service agencies such as CARE and Project Hope, and approximately $490,000 went to the National Red Cross.

Your dollars count. Please be as generous as you can when your office's CFC coordinator calls on you.

*** * * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * CFC * * ***

required under federal regulations designed to protect America's plant life from destructive foreign plant insects and diseases.

"To prevent loss of their property at U.S. ports of entry, persons intending to import soil and plant products should find out in advance whether a permit is required, and the other conditions of entry," Lee cautioned.

For information and permits, write: PPQ Permit Unit, USDA-APHIS, Rm. 638 Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Almost All Cropland Now In Use

American farmers are using almost all readily available cropland now, thus ending two decades of "underutilization" due to land retirement programs.

An Economic Research Service study has found that in 1974, 93 percent of total cropland was used for crops. It was the highest percentage of cropland used since 1949, the peak year when farmers used 96 percent of all cropland.

The study reported that while sizeable acreages of cropland can be provided from other land uses, considerable time and expense is needed to develop that land.

The ERS study cited the 1967 National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs which identified almost 266 million acres of land now in pasture, forest and other uses.

Much of the easily converted potential cropland is in the Plains States and the plains portion of the Mountain States. Other sizeable portions of potential cropland are in the Delta, Southeast, and Appalachia. The main problem is that much of the potential acreage must either be reclaimed from forest or swamp, or the land is located in subhumid areas that are sometimes devastated by drought or erosion.

Other potentially usable cropland in the Northeast and Appalachian States is dispersed in small, irregular, scattered tracts that are not conducive to modern farming.

Still other land, in the Corn Belt and Lake States, can be converted from pasture or by drainage.

Another 130 million acres scattered across the country could be used only for hay, or could be tilled only intermittently.

How to Buy Food

Consumer education teachers will find undated information on how to buy food in revised lesson aids issued recently by USDA.

How to Buy Food—Lesson Aids for Teachers, prepared by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, covers meat, dairy products, eggs, poultry, and fresh, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. Each lesson aid provides a list of basic reference materials, a glossary of terms, suggestions for teaching, and quizzes that may be given to students as an aid to teaching. Some of the reference publications are available in Spanish as well as in English.

How to Buy Food—Lession Aids for Teachers (Agriculture Handbook No. 443) has been published in looseleaf form so that instructors can take out pages meant for distribution in class and reproduce them with copying equipment.

Single free copies of AH-443 will be sent to teachers on request. Write: Information Division, Marketing and Services Branch, USDA-AMS, Washington, D.C. 20250. The lesson aids may also be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for $1.30 per set. Please use your zip code and give title and number of the publication when ordering copies.

The Stately Elm Returns

The stately elm, the tree that once adorned America's streets, parks, and lawns, from the Great Plains to the Atlantic coast may be on its way to

making a comeback. A hybrid, named "Urban elm," will be available in limited supply in about 3 years. It is resistant to Dutch elm disease which has spread throughout the American elm's natural range since the 1930's.

Scientists at the Agricultural Research Service Shade Tree and Ornamental Plants Laboratory, Delaware, Ohio, developed Urban elm from a cross between an elm from the Netherlands and a Siberian elm. "We expect the new tree will grow to a moderate size, making it more suitable for urban planting than the American elm," says plant pathologist *Charles L. Wilson*. Like the American elm, the hybrid grows fast in various soil types, has dark green foliage, and is tolerant to drought, pollution, soil compaction, and restricted root space.

A team began developing Urban elm in 1956, crossing parent trees to obtain seedlings that proved capable of withstanding inoculations of the fungus, *Ceratocystis ulmi*, which causes Dutch elm disease. Then came years of propagation and seasonal susceptibility trials in which plants grown from cuttings were inoculated with strains of fungi at various times of the year.

For the past 2 years, under an agreement with ARS, wholesale nurserymen have been testing the tree further for adaptability to various climatic conditions. The agreement prescribes that the nurserymen propagate the elms in sufficient numbers to insure that they will be available to other nurserymen before commerical trade begins.

Although the Urban elm may be thought of as a replacement for the American elm, researchers emphasize that it will not serve as a substitute planting in the same situations. The new tree is smaller and has an upright branching form in contrast with the well-recognized umbrella shape of the American elm.

Tax Assessments Affect Farm Economics

Death and taxes still remain the great certainties, but many farmers are finding that taxes are much easier to accept, thanks to differential assessments.

Since Maryland established the first differential assessment law 19 years ago, 34 other states have followed suit to protect farmland, open space, and historic sites.

To the farmer, the law provides vital tax relief that lowers his production costs. To the legislators, it's a means to encourage sensible land use and controlled development.

Differential assessments come in three general forms:

- ☐ Preferential assessment provides that farmland or open space land or an historic site is to be assessed at its value and its current use, ignoring alternate uses.
- ☐ Deferred tax provides that the assessor must maintain two value figures on each property: the current use value and the market value. Thus, if land use in changed, a penalty is assessed.
- ☐ Restrictive agreements make up a large, broad category. Similar to deferred taxes, such agreements are contractual with a local government agreeing to lower taxes in exchange for the landowner's commitment to continue the desired land use over an extended period.

A Seedy Computer

In the last 70 years, U.S. agriculture has lost forever over 50 varieties of clover for every variety still grown. Other irretrievable losses include 9 out of every 10 new soybean varieties and 2 out of every 3 new oat varieties.

The National Seed Storage Laboratory operated by the Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins, Colo., was built in 1958 in an effort to stop the loss of valuable germ plasm here and abroad.

Recently the laboratory transferred all its information on about 90,000 different seed samples from cards to computer tape. So handled, the information is much more complete and up-to-date and can be retrieved in a matter of seconds.

Louis N. Bass, head of the laboratory, says, "With the information which is stored at USDA's new computer center here in Fort Collins, we'll be able to conduct more thorough multiple-characteristic searches for seeds. If a researcher requests alfalfa seed that is disease resistant, early maturing, and extremely winter hardy, it will take the computer only seconds to tell us where all the various seed samples are located. This will eliminate hours of manual record searches."

Along with information on plant characteristics, disease and insect resistance, and location, the computer also stores information on germination history, origin, and donor of each sample.

The laboratory can use the computer to find seeds that are due to be retested for germination, to list all seeds of a certain species, and keep track of the quantity of each seed sample.

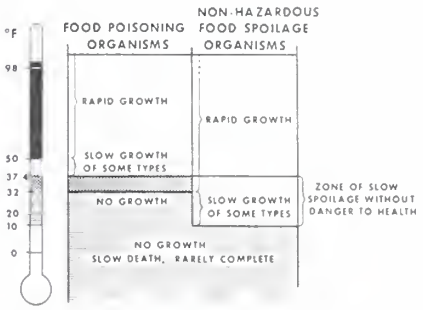
COMMENTS

REFINEMENT ON FOOD SAFETY

A better model from which to have prepared the food safety diagram in *USDA* (April 16, 1975) is the diagram (below) from: Michener, H.D. and P.R. Elliott, Microbiological Conditions Affecting Frozen Food Quality, in *Quality and Stability in Frozen Foods,* Wiley-Interscience, 1969, Edited by W.B. VanArsdel, M.J. Copley, and R.L. Olson.

The most important point is that microbial growth takes place at temperatures down to about +10° F. Thus foods can spoil, microbiologically, at temperatures below freezing. Also, it is not strictly correct to give 40° F as the lower limit for growth of food poisoning bacteria, as *Clostridium botulinum* Type E has been observed to grow and produce toxin down to about 37° F. For practical purposes, our diagram is probably as accurate as possible on the basis of present information. I do not think anyone will get botulism from food stored below 40° F, but this is a remote possibility that cannot be ruled out. However, the refrigerator in my home is probably set at 40° or 42° F.

H.D.M., ARS
Berkeley, Calif.



PEOPLE

Savings Bond Awards

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller recently presented the Liberty Bell Award for excellent achievement to USDA. The

Department was one of 21 agencies which attained 70 percent or more participation in the Payroll Savings Plan during the recent federal bond campaign.

Secretary Butz, who has served as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Savings Bonds Committee for 3 years, received a special Citizen Volunteer Award, in recognition of his efforts. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration, *Joseph R. Wright, Jr.*, campaign alternate to Secretary Butz, received the Silver Plate Award.

During 1975, more than 325,000 civilian employees and military personnel joined the Payroll Savings Plan or increased the amount of their purchases—100,000 more than the year before.

To Head Plant Products Lab

Dr. Donald D. Bills is the new chief of the Plant Products Laboratory at the Eastern Regional Research Center of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Philadelphia.

Attache to Belgium

Frank A. Padovano was named agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. He succeeds *Roger S. Euler*, who has returned to Washington for reassignment.

Attache to Switzerland

Hume F. Walters has been appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. He succeeds, *Frank Ehman*, who has retired from government service.

USDA Chemist in Cultural Exchange

Agricultural Research Service chemist, *Dr. Edwin N. Frankel* with the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill., will spend a year at Queen Mary College, University of London, as a senior visiting research fellow in the Department of Chemistry. He started work in September with Professor B.C.L. Weedon, an international authority of the field of reactions and synthesis of fatty acids and carotenes.

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.
Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

PERSON TO PERSON

Picture a surrey with a fringe on top, pulled down a dusty country road by two quick-steppin' white mules, part of a caravan of other buggies and wagons.

You've just seen "heaven" as *Al* and *Erma Lee Oard* know it. Al is supervisor of the Forest Service's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon. He and his wife are charter members of the Prairie City Wagon Train, an informal group of 25 people whose common denominator is an interest in old buggies and wagons.

The Wagon Train folks run the gamut from ranchers and truckers to veterinarians and bureaucrats, says Al. Their big annual event is a trip of some 150 to 200 miles over a week's time. They load their wagons and buggies with camping gear and head out on old stage routes, market roads, and military trials that still crisscross their section of Oregon.

Between trips, members gather parts and pieces of old buggies and wagons and restore them to near-new condition. In addition to their surrey, the Oard's have restored a mountain wagon—the jeep of its day, say Al. The wagon was designed to negotiate the rugged trials in the Cascade Mountain range, so it's built narrower and shorter than the prairie schooner that inspired it. The Oards next restoration will be a light buggy.

When they're not restoring vehicles, says Al, they "scrounge the West" for authentic period clothing to go with their vehicles. Estate sales are a good source, and the Oards have been able to assemble costumes that are authentic right down to the shoes.

Erma Lee says that the Wagon Train group prefers dusty backroads to the hoopla of parades, but they participate nonetheless. There's a terrific interest in their wagons and costumes. "It kind of brings back the past for the old people, and there's tremendous interest on the part of young people," she says. Al says that the enthusiasm of young folks in their late teens and early twenties is one of the pleasures he gets from his hobby. They want to know more about their own history, he says, and the Wagon Train's activities give them an association with the past—a taste of the way grandpa used to do things.

The Prairie City Wagon Train calls for utilitarian duds like overalls and open shirts, says Al Oard. *But when they're steppin' out for a parade, the Oards go nostalgic all the way.*

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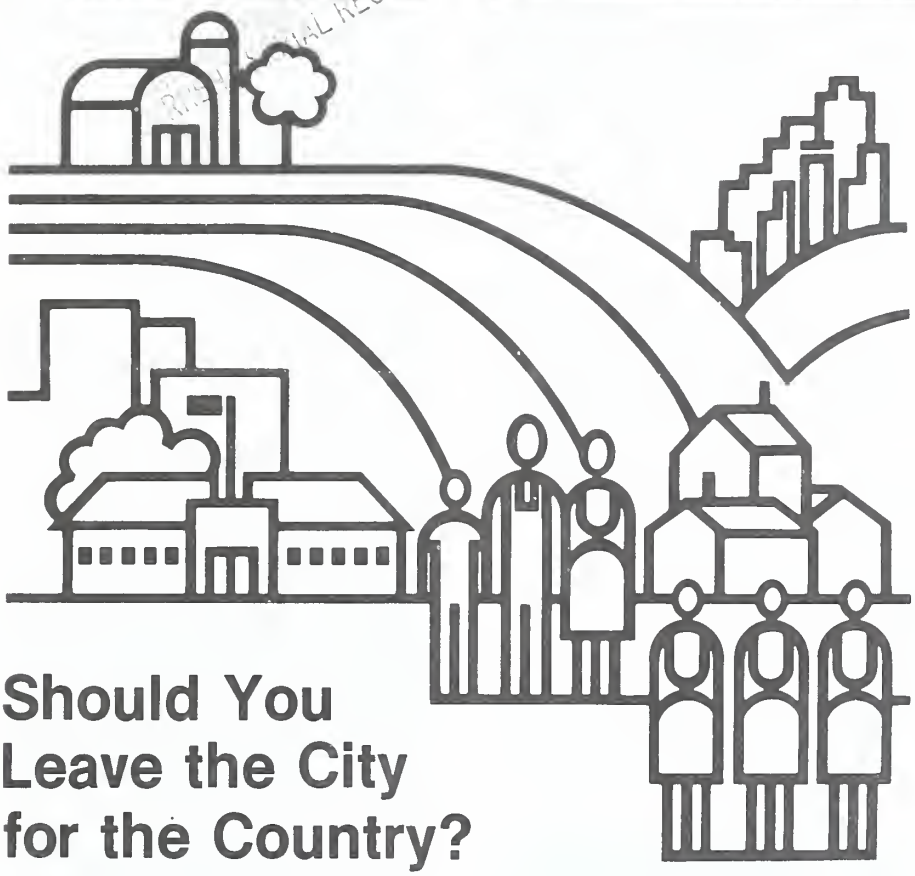

Should You Leave the City for the Country?

The back-to-the-land movement has prompted many folks with urban backgrounds to pack up their belongings and head to the countryside.

Rural Development Service, the USDA agency designated to coordinate federal rural development efforts, estimates that at least 350,000 persons are moving from urban to rural communities each year. That's in contrast to the net loss of about 300,000 persons each year that rural areas experienced during the 1960's. From 1970 to 1973, nonmetro population increased 4.2 percent while metro growth slowed up only 2.9 percent.

But swapping an urban for a rural lifestyle involves more than just changing your address. Many modern-day pioneers find their dreams of a better way of life soon change to disappointment and frustration. That doesn't have to happen, says RDS.

RDS suggests that city people who long to become countrified should check first on the availability of jobs, housing, and services in the area where they want to relocate. While many growing communities in rural America welcome new residents, others still have limited economic opportunities and facilities. Prospective residents can write to mayors or chambers of commerce for information about communities they're interested in.

What are some of the facts they should be looking for? RDS suggests answering the following questions before making that decision to move:

- ☐ Is satisfactory employment available for wage earners, either locally or within reasonable commuting distance? Are the jobs varied enough in type to enable a desired employment balance in the community?
- ☐ Is there enough sound, permanent housing available for newcomers? Is it convenient to employment, shopping, recreation, cultural, and service centers?
- ☐ Are transportation facilities suitable for people to get efficiently to and from work? Where must they go to conduct personal business, visit cultural centers, and enjoy recreational facilities?
- ☐ Are dental and medical facilities nearby? Are they capable of providing all services necessary to maintain good health?
- ☐ Is there enough variety in local shopping centers? Is it feasible to visit metro shopping centers nearby?
- ☐ Are schools (including elementary, intermediate, secondary and vocational schools and colleges) satisfactory and in desired locations?
- ☐ Are local government services, especially police, fire and ambulance, set up to function for the convenience and safety of the citizens? Is the tax system equitable?
- ☐ Are municipal services such as sewer and water systems available?
- ☐ Are churches of desired denomination in the area?
- ☐ Is land available for an individual who desires to purchase acreage for personal use?
- ☐ What are local development trends? Is the long-term outlook one of continuing attraction?

Supplied with proper information, urban dwellers who long for the country can choose a rural community that's compatible with their needs and interests. Getting answers before they move can prevent dreams of a simpler life from turning into nightmares of inadequate community services, poor housing, or unemployment. ☐

NEWS

What Are the Prospects?

U.S. and world economic and agricultural prospects will be the main concerns of the first day of USDA's 53rd National Agricultural Outlook Conference.

The conference, scheduled for Nov. 17-20 in Washington, D.C. is sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Extension Service. It will feature presentations, and panel

discussions by leading authorities in agriculture and business on the agricultural and general economic outlook, foreign agricultural trade, commodities development, and family living.

The Tuesday morning general session will feature the outlook for prices and supplies of inputs used in farming, the costs involved in farm production, and the U.S. agricultural production capacity. A concurrent session observing International Women's Year will discuss the history of women's contributions to U.S. agriculture and rural community life and the goals of International Women's Year.

On Tuesday afternoon through the close of the conference Thursday, delegates will have the option of attending sessions devoted to commodity and family living topics.

Preliminary programs for the 1976 National Agricultural Outlook Conference are available from: Publications Unit, USDA-ERS, Rm. 0054-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

New Animal Import Center

Stewart Airport near Newburgh, N.Y., has been selected as the site for a new animal import center for the United States.

The center, to be operated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, will replace a similar facility that has been in operation at Clifton, N.J., since 1903. APHIS Administrator *Dr. F.J. Mulhern* said the Clifton center has become too small to handle the large volume of animal and poultry imports coming into the United States.

APHIS proposes to build a $5.4 million facility on the 74-acre site at Stewart Airport to handle yearly imports of some 1,800 cattle, 800 horses, 300 zoo animals and 4,000 poultry—more than triple the current capacity at Clifton. APHIS operates two smaller import centers in Miami, Fla., and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mulhern noted that all imported animals must be certified as being healthy and free of disease before they leave their native country. At the new import center's holding and examination facilities, these animals will be isolated and thoroughly checked by APHIS veterinarians as an added precaution to ensure their good health before they are moved to livestock breeding farms, zoos or other destinations in the United States.

Animals processed through the import center will include all domestic livestock—such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine and poultry—plus pigeons and some zoo birds as well as wild zoo animals that could transmit certain livestock diseases. Imported dogs and cats are not regulated by USDA and will not pass through the center.

HAPPINESS IS HELPING ONE'S NEIGHBORS

Let's be neighborly in supporting the Combined Federal Campaign

Have USDA for Breakfast

Check your cereal box in the coming months for a promotion of a new USDA storybook on nutrition for children.

The Thing the Professor Forgot is designed to be read to pre-schoolers and to be used as a picture book and learning aid for children in the first years of school.

The 20-page booklet was developed by General Mills Corporation with the cooperation of the Department. The booklet, along with a message on good nutrition, is being promoted on the backs and sides of about 40 million General Mills cereal boxes currently being distributed.

The message urges parents to write the Government's Consumer Product Information Center in Pueblo, Colo, for a free copy.

The Thing the Professor Forgot is part of USDA's continuing effort to get information about food and nutrition to the public, especially to young people. Other projects have been developed in cooperation with private industry, other government agencies, and volunteer organizations in order to reach the widest possible audience with available resources.

To get a single free copy of *The Thing the Professor Forgot*, write: Consumer Information, Dept. Q, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

Uncle Sam As Land Baron

Fully one-third of this nation's lands are publicly held. That figure usually shocks the easterner or the midwesterner, but comes as no surprise to the residents of America's West where the vast National Forests and grasslands stretch for seemingly endless miles.

Another little-known fact about public land is just how much of it falls under jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. Many people think of USDA only as an agency dedicated to improving the farmer's lot, and assuring high levels of nutrition in the nation at reasonable prices. But USDA is also one of the

nation's major land managers. Through the Forest Service, it directly manages more than 8 percent of the surface area of the United States—about 187 million acres. This is an area equivalent to the combined area of West Virginai, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

No Softening In Meat Prices

USDA's Outlook and Situation Board says that retail meat prices likely will continue relatively high for the balance of 1975 and for the year could average 7 to 9 percent above 1974. During October-December red meat production will run about 5 percent smaller than a year ago and meat prices could average 15 percent or more above last fall. Weakness in beef prices could be offset by higher pork prices. Per capita meat consumption in 1975 may be down 8 to 10 pounds from last year's 188 pounds.

Farmers' Equity Climbs

Spiraling farmland and equipment prices bolstered the equity position of farmers by $36 billion last year, raising it to a record $438 billion.

The Balance Sheet of the Farming Sector, an annual report of USDA's Economic Research Service, indicated that last year farmers made a return of nearly 6 percent on their equity in production assets. This rate of return was well below the rate of 1973, but substantially higher than in other recent years.

The equity increase during 1974 was the net result of a $44 billion gain in the assets owned by farmers, while debt rose only $8 billion. While lower prices depressed the value of livestock held on farms as of Jan. 1, price rises inflated the value farmland and of equipment and motor vehicles, and pushed total farm assets to $520 billion. Farm debt outstanding on Jan. 1, 1975, hit $82 billion, reflecting increased borrowing for both real estate and nonreal estate purposes.

Single copies of *The Balance Sheet of the Farming Sector* (SB-389) are available free upon postcard request (please include zipcode) from the Publications Unit, USDA-ERS, Rm. 0054-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

They're Good and Getting Better

Secretary Butz recently told the House Agriculture Committee that when the credits are handed out for pulling our economy out of the doldrums this year, the American farmer will rightfully be first in line.

The Secretary noted that farmers are not only raising record crops in 1975, but they're also setting a new all-time high mark in productivity for American agriculture. The farmer's output per unit of input (labor, fertilizer, land, etc.) will be 1 percent above the previous record set in 1971 and equaled 1973, and it will be 7 percent above 1974's showing. "That," said Butz, "is how to fight inflation."

Bits on Bread

- ☐ A bushel of wheat provides the flour for about 70 pounds of white bread.
- ☐ If the farm price of wheat increases $1 per bushel, the net cost of the wheat ingredients in a pound of bread increases about 1.2 cents.
- ☐ A special USDA study in 1973 showed that the net farm value of the wheat in a pound of white bread accounted for 4.1 cents of the 27.6-cent average costs of that pound of bread that year. The cost of labor to move that bread from the bakery to the retail store was 4.52 cents—more than the farmer received for the wheat.
- ☐ The 1973 study also showed that labor for both processing and distribution was the biggest single cost in the price of a pound of white bread—about 40 percent of the 27.6-cent cost. The net farm value of the wheat in a pound of white bread (4.1 cents) represented about 15 percent of the average retail price of the bread.

Shedding Some Light on Indoor Gardening

One of the biggest problems indoor gardeners face is light—or the lack of it. Most homes are simply too dark for good plant growth and need some kind of light to supplement natural sunlight.

But what kind and how much?

Indoor gardners have been asking USDA scientists lots of questions so *Dr. H. Marc Cathey*, chief of the Agricultural Research Service's Ornamentals laboratory in Beltsville, Md., conducted experiments to get some answers.

The studies suggest that flourescent light does a better job of producing healthy plants, at lower operating cost, than incandescent plant growth lights.

Petunias grown under fluorescent lights looked like those grown under greenhouse conditions—they were compact and luxuriant, with deep green foliage. The plants grown under incandescent lights tended to be long and stringy.

Flourescent lights use less energy than incadescent types, which offsets their higher initial cost. Also, fluorescent lights are cool to touch and plants can be put close to the lamp without burning the foilage.

However, says Cathey, these findings don't mean that incandescent light should not be considered for indoor plants. Incandescent lights are attractive and effective under some circumstances. Hanging flood lamps, for example, can be used in decorative arrangements to supplement bright light from a window. But, he emphasizes, you must have reasonably good natural light to begin with if you want really luxuriant plants.

A Typical Weekend In the Life of . . .

Following his tour of duty over one weekend recently, an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service employee in San Diego left a brief note for his district director:

"When I arrived 0800 Saturday, this chicken was tethered by the leg to a bush outside our office. I went to the office and picked up two cages. Two overnight parrot seizures filled them. Sunday, the Border Patrol apprehended two aliens crossing the border with paper sacks full of parrots. They put the sacks with parr ts in the trunk of their car and headed for the port. On arrival, parrots had escaped the sack and were loose in the trunk. Fortunately, they were partially drugged so with crab net and heavy glove was able to apprehend one at a time and shove into cages. Caught and confined sixteen. Customs wanted them kept alive until agents could see them Monday morning as they may prosecute on felony smuggling. Typical weekend in life of Agricultural Quarantine Inspection Supervisor."

Do You Qualify?

The Food Stamp Program (PA-1123) is a new 16-page USDA booklet designed to spread understanding of the food stamp program to eligible recipients.

The booklet outlines current eligibility requirements for food stamp applicants and answers frequently asked questions concerning purchasing, administration, and use of food stamps. Such related

issues as meal-on-wheels, fair hearings for applicants and recipients, and disaster situations are also explained.

The *Food Stamp Program* is being distributed to state agencies and local food stamp offices throughout the country in order to help states meet outreach responsibilities.

To obtain copies contact the local welfare office in your area or write the Information Division, USDA-FNS, Washington, D.C. 20250.

A Whale of a Good Idea

Since the U.S. placed the sperm whale on the endangered species list and banned the import of its products in 1971, USDA and others have hard pressed to come up with a substitute. Stockpiles of the precious sperm oil, accumulated by processors before the law became effective, will probably only last for another couple of years.

Now three unpretentious plants may be the greatest thing that's happened to sperm whales since the endangered species list.

These plants—jojoba, a scruffy desert shrub; Limnanthes (meadowfoam), a flowering Pacific Coast annual; and crambe, a bushy member of the mustard family—are being studied by USDA and others as possible substitutes for the fine sperm whale oil once used in everything from cosmetics to automatic car transmissions.

The peanut-sized seeds of jojoba contain a liquid wax ester almost identical to sperm oil. The National Academy of Sciences seems to think the jojoba is the best bet for replacing sperm whale oil, and has recommended that the Government back the development of 2,000 acres.

USDA plant scientists feel that Limnanthes and crambe offer even greater crop potential as a replacement for the sperm oil because both plants are annuals and can be harvested with any small-grain equipment.

Limnanthes, called "meadowfoam" because its thick white flowers look like a foamy seaspray, contains a unique vegetable oil that by chemical transformation can be converted into liquid wax esters similar to those of sperm whale and jojoba oils.

Crambe is a bushy herb growing up to 3 feet tall that blooms with delicate white flowers.

Unlike jojoba and Limnanthes, crambe is not a native of this country. It hails from the sunny Mediterranean and Africa. Crambe seeds contain an oil rich in erucic acid. After chemical refining, the oil can be converted into wax esters, similar to the sperm oil.

Conservationists are as eager for these new crops as anyone, for the survival of the majestic sperm whales may well depend on their development.

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Bonnie Kreitler, Editor.
Roxanne Barnes, Editorial Assistant

PEOPLE

Lecturer Named for Bicentennial Year

William K. Reilly, president of The Conservation Foundation, Washington, D.C., will present the ninth B.Y. Morrison Memorial Lecture Sunday, Nov. 30, 1975, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Reilly's lecture will be presented before the 1975 Congress of Cities at the 51st annual meeting of the National League of Cities. Theme of the meeting will be urban conservation.

The Morrison Lecture was established in 1968 by USDA's Agricultural Research Service to honor *Benjamin Y. Morrison* (1891-1966) who was a scientist, plant explorer, author and first director of USDA's National Arboretum. The lecture series recognizes notable accomplishments in the environmental sciences.

COMMENTS

CANCEL THOSE FLIGHTS WITH ARS

The pilots mentioned in the September 9 issue of USDA still have their impressive safety record, but they hail from APHIS, not ARS. A number of people called to tell me so.

Sorry, fellas.

AND WHILE I'M APOLOGIZING

USDA **suffered from a lack of staff and vacation schedules over the summer, with the result that we fell behind our publishing schedule. If you've noticed that your USDA's are coming closer together these days and can't find any with August dates, that's why. But don't worry. You'll still get the 26 issues your agency paid for this year. We'll be back on our regular bi-weekly schedule in November.**

PERSON TO PERSON

Thanks to two Forest Service employees, Orofino, Idaho, now has a physical fitness trail. *Dory Engle*, switchboard operator on the Clearwater National Forest, read about the exercise trails of Switzerland and was inspired to approach forester *Andy Arvish* with the idea of a trail for Orofino. A jogger himself, Arvish enthusiastically provided ideas then recruited workers and material for the project.

The completed trail is a 1.4 mile loop, beginning and ending at the Forest Service parking lot in Orofino. Exercise stations are being set up at 20 locations along the trail where hikers and joggers can stop to perform calisthenics like sit-ups, chin-ups, and hand springs. The exercises at the stations gradually increase in difficulty as hikers progress along the trail.

Most of the rail was constructed by workers from a federal-state employment training program. Other interested individuals and organizations like the Lion's Club, American Association of University Women, and Kiwanis Club helped. The local high school woodworking class made signs for the exercise stations, and the girls track team painted them. Lumber, grass seed, paint, printing work, and other materials were donated.

A contest to find a name for the trail drew 71 entries and produced the name "Wood Winder." Local merchants provided jogging suits and sneakers for prizes. The trail is free and open to anyone who cares to meet its challenges.

Andy Arvish *stops along the Wood Winder to perform a "step" exercise at Station 11. Twenty exercise stations along the new trail lead hikers and joggers through progressively more difficult exercises.*

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October 29, 1975

Health Benefits Premiums Rise; Open Season Extended

Changes in premium rates and benefits offered by plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program in 1976 were announced recently by the Civil Service Commission.

In addition to the premium changes, the Commission announced that the open season originally scheduled for November 15-30 will be extended until December 31.

Premium rates for most participating plans will be significantly higher than present rates because of increases in the cost of health care.

The government-wide plans initially requested increases of 38 to 54 percent. After Commission review of their proposals and extensive negotiations, both government-wide plans agreed to aggregate rate increases of about 35 percent, based on an assumed continuation of the present coordination of FEHB benefits with Medicare benefits.

Because of uncertainty at this time as to the relationship of the FEHB program to Medicare on January 1, 1976, two sets of rates were announced. When this question is resolved by Congress, a final set of rates will be published.

Section 1862(c) of the Social Security Act provides that no payment may be made under the Medicare program after January 1, 1976, for any item or service covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits program unless prior to that date Federal employees are provided with coverage supplementary to parts A and B of the Medicare program.

Earlier this year, the Commission and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare submitted proposed legislation which they believed would fulfill the intent of section 1962(c). This and other alternatives are now being considered by Congress.

If no action is taken by Congress, FEHB contractors will pay additional benefits of about $250 million in 1976, which otherwise would have been paid by Medicare. Such an outlay would have to be met by increases in premium rates.

There are strong indications that this problem will be resolved one way or the other by the Congress prior to the end of calendar year 1975. Until this occurs, final rate and benefit information needed by employees and annuitants to reach decisions will not be available. For this reason, the Commission decided to extend the open season.

Because of the sharp increase in health care costs, the Commission did not accept proposed benefit increases for 1976 with additional cost unless the increased cost would be offset by cost reduction within the plan.

The Commission did accept dental benefits for children as offered by Aetna and two plans covering postal workers. The cost of the new dental benefits was offset by increasing the high option deductible from $50 to $75 for Aetna and by combining the high and low options for postal plans.

While this is the first time that any of the six largest plans have offered dental benefits, they have been offered or are being added in 1976 by three other employee organization plans and six comprehensive medical plans. Because the coverage and benefits of each dental package varies considerably, employees and annuitants are advised to consult the individual brochures for specific information.

Nine new comprehensive medical plans (Health Maintenance Organizations) have been approved by the Commission and are offered to Federal employees for the first time in 1976. They are: ABC-HMO of Phoenix, Ariz.; Rocky Mountain Health Maintenance Organization of Grand Junction, Colo.; ANCHOR Organization for Health Maintenance of Chicago, Ill.; Group Health Association of Northeastern Minn.; SHARE of St. Paul, Minn.; Community Health Program of Queens-Nassau, Inc., of New York; Mastercare Plan, Albuquerque, N.M.; Health Maintenance Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio; Medical Care Group of St. Louis, Mo. Each of these plans is open to employees and annuitants who reside in a plan's enrollment area. The addition of nine new plans brings to 55 the number of plans that will participate in the program in 1976.

During the open season, which begins November 15 and runs through December 31, eligible employees may enroll for the first time in one of the health care plans available in their area. Employees and retirees already enrolled may change from one plan or option to another, or from self-only to family coverage. Any change made during the open season will take effect in January 1976.

Agency personnel offices are now distributing brochures outlining the benefits offered by each of the health care plans.

USDA's Office of Personnel urges all employees to study the health plan brochures carefully so that they fully understand benefits offered by the plans they are interested in. Questions should be referred to your personnel office. □

NEWS

Nitrates, Nitrites, and USDA

USDA plans to propose regulations to terminate the use of most nitrate and reduce the use of nitrites in the curing of meat and poultry products.

The proposal will be based on recommendations made by the Secretary's Expert Panel on Nitrite and

Nitrosamines. *Dr. Harry C. Mussman*, associate administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, says, "These recommendations take into account the very real danger to people of botulism poisoning if too little nitrite is used, as weighed against the potential hazard of cancer resulting from nitrosamine formation."

"Because of the botulism threat, we cannot pull nitrites out of the meat curing process immediately. However, by eliminating nitrate, we can have better control over the levels of nitrites used in curing," says Mussman. "Both the Expert Panel and APHIS feel this additional control should result in maximum consumer protection against both health hazards."

Dr. Mussman notes that tests on fried bacon have shown detectable levels of nitrosopyrrolidine, a nitrosamine and a carcinogen. However, the levels encountered in bacon have been falling steadily. The scientific community is divided as to the significance of these findings.

The Expert Panel recommended that nitrate be banned from cooked sausage including frankfurters; canned, cured, perishable or shelf-stable products (canned hams and corned beef); canned, cured sterile products, and bacon.

Dr. Mussman says that, in cooperation with industry, research is being carried out in a number of laboratories to determine how the formation of nitrosamines in bacon can be prevented. Entirely new processing procedures may be needed to attain the maximum possible reduction.

For Quality Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit and vegetable processors may apply for grading services under a new quality assurance program established recently by USDA.

Under the new program, a processor who has a quality control program meeting USDA requirements may grade his products using USDA inspection procedures and have the grade certified by USDA. To certify that the quality of the product meets U.S. grade standards, a USDA inspector will make daily verification inspections of some production lots and check the plant inspection and quality control records. Participating plants can use official grade marks, such as U.S. Grade A, along with a shield stating, "Packed under the Quality Assurance Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Processors interested in the program should get in touch with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Edwin C. Williams, chief of AMS' Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, explained that a processor must complete a trial period after applying for the program. During this period, USDA personnel will evaluate quality control practices, plant sanitation, and the implementation of USDA inspection procedures. A plant approved for participation is subject to ongoing USDA evaluation.

All USDA grading services for processed fruits and vegetables are voluntary and available on a fee-for-service basis.

Fire Ant Program Resumes

Federal participation in the imported fire ant control program has resumed under a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The agreement—signed by USDA Under Secretary *J. Phil Campbell* and EPA Deputy Administrator John R. Quarles, Jr.—came as a result of recent technological advances in formulating the pesticide mirex, the principal chemical weapon used to destroy fire ants.

"Limited tests of a new bait have shown very promising results," Quarles said. "They indicate the new bait could reduce the amount of actual toxicant applied per acre by approximately 75 percent per treatment. It is hoped that this new bait would reduce potential harm to the environment."

Fire ants entered the U.S. on cargo shipped from South America to Mobile, Ala., in 1918. They inflict very painful stings on people and animals which can lead to death in extreme situations. Their large earth mounds, built in fields and yards, interfere with farming operations and outdoor activities.

Over 133 million acres are infested with fire ants in suburban and rural areas in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

USDA has conducted cooperative programs with these infested states since 1957 and has been using mirex bait since 1962. Scientific studies lead EPA to impose restrictions on the use of mirex beginning in 1972. On July 1 of this year, USDA suspended its participation in these programs on the grounds that it desired a more effective program.

In September 1973, EPA convened a hearing to examine all aspects of the benefits, costs, and possible health affects associated with the use of mirex. This hearing is still pending. At its conclusion, the EPA Administrative Law Judge will make his recommendations regarding future registrations of mirex.

SMOKEY BEAR-WOODSY OWL '76 ENVIRONMENTAL POSTER CONTEST

The deadline for the annual Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl Environmental Poster Contest is November 25 this year.

The National Council of State Garden Clubs and the Forest Service sponsor the annual contest for students from kindergarten through 12th grade and above.

Students may use any art materials as long as they are basically two-dimensional and no larger than 12 x 18 inches. Copies of the 1976 rules are available from local Forest Service offices. Entries should be sent to the Garden Clubs' State poster contest chairmen whose names are also available at your local FS office. Check your local phone directory for U.S. Government listing and find the Forest Service under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

National winners will be announced at the 1976 regional meetings of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Destructive Pest Found in California

An outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly, one of the most destructive fruit and vegetable pests known to man, has been discovered in Venice, Calif.

James O. Lee, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said that this is the first time "medfly" has been found in California, and that this is the only current infestation in the continental United States. Medfly has invaded this country six times in the last half-century. Previous outbreaks have been eradicated at a total cost of $23 million.

The medfly attacks citrus, peaches, pears, tomatoes and other soft skinned fruits and vegetables.

Why 47 Cent Cattle and $2 T-Bones?

Why does T-bone steak cost consumers over $2.50 a pound when farmers sell their cattle for only 47 cents a pound? The main reason is that all that walks isn't steak or, put another way, that live steer is only about 44 percent meat. There are a lot of costs involved in transforming the animal on the hoof into steaks in your supermarket.

To see how it all adds up, let's trace a steer from the farm to the meat counter.

First, the farmer sells his steer—let's say the animal weighs about 1,000 pounds—for 47 cents a pound or $470. Then the packer slaughters the animal and is left with a 620-pound carcass. Not including any value added by the packer's services, the carcass is now worth 75.8 cents a pound.

The carcass must be cut and packaged for retailing, however. By the time some bone and fat are removed and some moisture and meat are lost during the process, only about 440 pounds of salable meat is left. This meat now has a value of about $1.07 a pound.

Processing, transportation, and marketing costs also have to be figured. Add to that $1.07 per pound about 7 cents for slaughtering; 4 cents for transportation from slaughter house to retail store; another 21 cents for labor to cut the carcass into retail cuts and package it for sale; about 4 cents for packaging material; and about 3 cents for advertising.

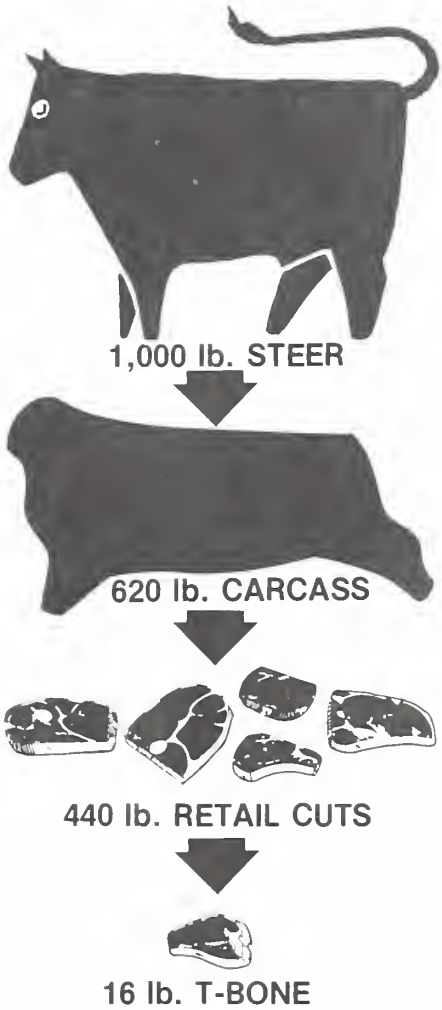
Add on a little profit for each of the firms along the line and you come up with a figure of about $1.50 a pound for the 440 pounds of usable meat.

"Hold on," you say. "There's still another $1 to be accounted for in the price of my T-bone."

Well, that steer we started with produced a mere 16 pounds of steak in the first place. The other 424 pounds of meat were mostly cuts that sell at lower prices than T-bone. Chuck steaks and roasts, ground beef, shanks, short ribs, and stew meat are good examples.

If you average out all the hamburger at, let's say, 86 cents a pound, the T-bone at $2.50 a pound, and all other cuts at various prices, you come out with $1.50 per pound.

That's why the price the farmer receives per pound of live animal is so far from the price the consumer pays for meat in the supermarket. But you can console yourself that the conveniently packaged, ready-to-cook cuts of meat you buy in the supermarket are a lot easier to handle than that 1,000 pound live animal.



Rural Development Show

Techniques for improving the quality of rural life are described in a new 11-minute color slide presentation and filmstrip produced by USDA.

Rural Building: A Better Way shows how a hypothetical community uses the Rural Development Act of 1972 and other legislation to upgrade itself in the areas of human and economic development, community facilities, and environmental improvement. The presentation demonstrates what is possible through the more than 500 federal programs available to rural communities, according to USDA's Rural Development Service.

Copies of the slide set can be purchased for $21.50 from the Photograph Division, USDA, Office of Communicaiton, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for $16 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011.

A cassette with soundtrack including both 50 Hz and 1,000 Hz pulses to change frames automatically and two copies of an illustrated narrative guide are included in the price.

PEOPLE

First to Merit Presidential Letter

James C. Dickie, soil conservationist with USDA's Soil Conservation Service in Owosso, Mich., is the first Department employee to receive a letter of congratulations from President Gerald Ford for his cost reduction effort.

Dickie developed data sheets to use in answering landowners' questions about the right kind of plantings for their property. The preprinted technical information can be quickly tailored to each landowner's individual needs, eliminating the need for SCS personnel to write out the information at the time of each request. This also saves time for the landowners who stop in at the SCS office to get information since they no longer have to wait or come back again while the information is prepared. SCS estimates that the data sheets will save 1.3 man-years of work annually in Michigan at a savings of over $23,000.

Earlier this year, President Ford announced that he would personally thank any employee whose suggestion resulted in tangible benefits of $5,000 or more to the Government (*USDA* July 9, 1975). In a letter to Dickie, the President thanked the soil conservationist for his efforts to improve Government operations. "As we wage this critical fight to control recession," Ford said, "it is heartening to learn of the vital contributions you are making to this task."

New Head of Farmer Cooperative Service

Dr. Randall E. Torgerson has been appointed administrator of the Farmer Cooperative Service. Since January 1974 Dr. Torgerson served as staff economist to the administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service on a special assignment from the University of Missouri. He succeeds *Dr. Ronald D. Knutson*, who resigned in August to become professor of agricultural policy

and marketing at Texas A&M University.

As administrator of FCS, Dr. Torgerson will direct the research and technical assistance efforts of 60 agricultural economists and cooperative specialists. FCS programs are designed to increase the efficiency of the nation's 7,700 farmer-owned cooperatives involved in the production and marketing of the nation's food and fiber.

New Director for Northern Lab

Dr. William H. Tallent was recently named director of the Agricultural Research Service's Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill.

From 1969 to 1974 Tallent served as chief of the industrial crops research at the lab. He has been assistant director since May 1974 and acting director since Jan. 1, 1975.

Recognized for Discovery of Disease Agents

T.O. Diener, plant pathologist at the Agricultural Research Service's Plant Virology Pioneering Research Lab in Beltsville, Md., and plant pathologist J.S. Semancik with the University of California at Riverside, recently received the $10,000 Alexander Von Humboldt award. The Von Humboldt award is given to the person or persons judged to have made the most significant contribution to American agriculture during the previous one to three years.

The two scientists were honored for their discovery of a new disease-causing agent called "viroids." Viroids are the smallest known infectious agents, only one-fiftieth the size of the smallest known virus. Three viroids have been identified to date, each causing a different plant disease. However, the scientists say the implications of their findings are also important for research on human disease causes.

Career Service Award

Talcott W. Edminster, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is one of 10 Federal employees who recently received a 1975 Career Service Award for "making ARS a modern, multi-disciplinary research agency." The honor came from the National Civil Service League, a nonpartisan citizen organization founded in 1881 to establish merit systems in the Federal government and the states.

Madison Woman of the Year

Marilyn Effland, a chemist with the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., was recently named USDA Woman of the Year—Madison area. The award was made during an interagency POWER (Potential Of Women Employees Recognized) workshop held for USDA employees in Madison.

Attends Aviation Conference

Robert Ekblad, mechanical engineer at the Forest Service's Equipment Development Center in Missoula, Mont., recently attended the Fifth International Agricultural Aviation Congress in Kenilworth, England. Ekblad, a project leader for many Forest Service pest management activities, also attended a short course on aerial application of insecticides offered by the Cranfield Institute of Technology, Crydon, England.

Hartwig Selected

Dr. Edgar E. Hartwig, research agronomist with the Agricultural Research Service's Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville, Miss., recently received the National Civil Service League's Special Achievement Award for 1975. The League annually honors ten career federal employees for sustained excellence and one career federal employee for special achievement. Dr. Hartwig was cited for developing the breeding technique called "backcrossing" of soybeans and establishing soybean germplasm banks.

PERSON TO PERSON

Know what a Pirsch is?

If you guessed a breed of dog—something like a Schnauzer—you are wrong.

Suppose you are given an additional clue—"a '39 Pirsch."

No, it's not the vintage year for a Rhine wine.

Give up? A '39 Pirsch is a fire engine, built in 1939 by the Peter Pirsch and Sons Company, of Kenosha, Wisc. No doubt they built many fire engines that year. But this thirty-six year old model is rather remarkable because it's not only in operating condition, but it's also back in regular service in the small northern California mountain community of Seiad Valley.

The man primarily responsible for getting year-round fire protection for the isolated community is *Dave Dean* of the Klamath National Forest, guard station foreman at Seiad.

Dean, who also serves as temporary unofficial fire chief for the new volunteer fire department, doesn't recall the exact date when he first saw the old engine parked in front of a logger's house in the adjacent town of Happy Camp.

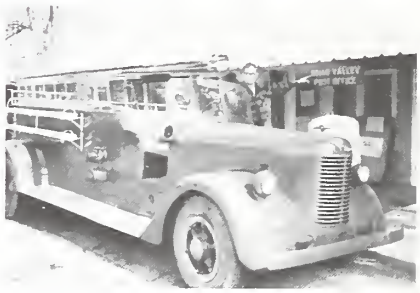
The owner indicated that the truck was surplus equipment obtained from a southern California Marine Corps base. It had been idle for 6 or 7 years.

The residents of Seiad Valley went to work to raise funds. Five hundred dollars later, Dean and his volunteer colleagues towed and coasted the old fire engine 19 miles to Seiad on its original World War II "combat tires."

They housed it in a tin-roof shed that dated back to the dredging gold mining day of the '30's. Then the firemen took apart the truck motor, the pump and the brakes to see what they had. The only items that needed replacement were the pressure gauges and the electrical wiring!

When more money was needed for insurance and equipment, the local citizenry organized bingo games and turkey shoots. The County also granted $1,500 to the volunteer fire department. As a result, the truck is now equipped with 300 feet of "inch-and-a half cotton jacket hose," to use professional firemen's jargon. An electrically-operated rewind reel is on order.

Now the only thing the new fire department still needs to go with its "39 Pirsch" says Dean, is a "74 Dalmatian."



Dave Dean *and the '39 Pirsch pose in front of the Seiad Valley Post Office and general store.*

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'USDA'

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Your Fingers Will Do Less Walking

While you're at home this Thanksgiving laboring over that traditional turkey, GSA will be laboring back at the office switching the entire Federal Telecommunications System (FTS) from a 10-digit to a new 7-digit system.

The changeover promises more than a Government-wide reduction in the number of broken fingernails. The modifications in the FTS system provide significant technical advantages over the old system, and will give the Government its telephone service at a lower cost.

Putting aside momentarily, the exceptions to the new rules (such as Washington, D.C.), the switch means two things for the over 100 Federal agencies and commissions in more than 500 cities that are part of the network:

- ☐ new FTS phone numbers for most of the network's users;
- ☐ no more area codes in long-distance FTS-to-FTS calls.

Because many FTS numbers will change on December 1, virtually every FTS intercity dialer will be affected by the changeover. Over 500,000 new FTS numbers are being assigned to Government phones around the country. There will be no new numbers assigned, however, in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Fort Worth, Hartford, Kansas City, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

In most cases, just the first three digits of the old 7-digit number will change. The last four numbers will usually be the same. So if you know someone's old FTS number, you can replace the first three digits with the first three digits of the number assigned to the FTS operator at the location you're calling. These numbers are contained in the *1976 FTS Telephone Users Guide*, available through administrative offices.

The new FTS numbers will eliminate the need for using area codes when dialing long distance from one FTS number to another. Before the modification, long distance calls from one Government telephone to another consisted of the FTS access code (usually 8), the area code, and the seven digit number: 8 (617) 123-4567. Now a long distance call from one FTS phone to another can be made by simply dialing the FTS access code and the seven digit FTS number: 8-123-4567.

In general, long distance calls made from FTS numbers to non-FTS numbers will be operator assisted. For most cities, FTS users will dial the FTS assistance operators in or near the cities they wish to call. FTS users will give the operators their FTS number and the 10-digit commercial number they want to reach. The operator will then place the call.

There are a few exceptions though. If you're placing a call to a commercial number in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, or the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, you don't need to dial an FTS operator for assistance in placing a long distance commercial call. These cities all have the capability for automatically handling calls outside the FTS network. For calls

FTS REFERENCE GUIDE

From \ To	On-Net (Long Distance)	Off-Net (Long Distance)	Off-Net (After-Hours)	Off-Net (Washington, DC)	Off-Net (New York, NY) Area Code 212, Only	Off-Net (San Francisco, CA) Area Code 415, Only	Off-Net (Los Angeles, CA) Area Code 213, Only	Off-Net (Chicago, IL) Area Code 312, Only	Commercial Information
On-Net	Dial Access Code + 7-Digit FTS Number as Required	Dial Access Code + 7-Digit Number of FTS Operator at Distant City**	Dial Access Code + 967-1221*	Dial Access Code + 900 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial Access Code + 903 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial Access Code + 905 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial Access Code + 508 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial Access Code + 409 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 9 + Area Code + 555-1212 At No Charge
On-Net Washington, DC	Dial 8 + 7-Digit FTS Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 9 + 7-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 8 + 10-Digit Commercial Number	Dial 9 + Area Code + 555-1212 At No Charge
Off-Net	Dial Local FTS Operator as Listed in Commercial Local Directory*	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	See Instructions in Local Telephone Directory

*USER MUST PROVIDE THE FTS OPERATOR:
Name
FTS identification symbol
7-digit number called

**USER MUST PROVIDE THE FTS OPERATOR:
FTS Seven Digit Telephone Number
10-Digit Number Called

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to these cities, you'll dial the FTS access code, *a special FTS area code*, and the seven digit commercial phone number. The special FTS area codes for these cities are shown in the table on page 1. Additional cities with automatic capability to handle off-network calls may be added to the FTS system in the future.

Special instructions for Washington, D.C. FTS users, after-hours dialing, calls outside the continental U.S., conference call service, and other information are contained in the *1976 FTS Telephone Users Guide*. Be sure to consult it if you are a long-distance FTS user.

GSA reminds Government employees to include their new FTS numbers in all correspondence to other FTS users and to exchange new FTS numbers with persons whom they call frequently.

Employees are also reminded that the FTS system is for official government business only. Use of it for personal business or pleasure is prohibited. □

NEWS

The Suez Connection

Life returned to the Suez Canal on June 5—an event hailed by virtually all of the world's trading nations.

What does the canal's reopening mean in terms of U.S. agricultural trade? First and foremost, transportation is cheaper and faster for the U.S. farm products now moving vigorously to top growth markets—Iran, Iraq, India, and the oil-rich Arabian Peninsula.

The canal's opening has already added to the surge in U.S. farm sales to the Mideast and Asia by making U.S. products, such as rice, more competitive with those of closer suppliers.

The reopening of the waterway will also help to fuel a boom in European food exports to Asia that was underway when the canal closed.

As a result of this trade expansion, the flow of agricultural commodities moving southward through the canal in 1975/76 is projected to be greater than in the busiest years of the 1960's.

Northbound traffic of agricultural goods through the Suez Canal is apt to be as vigorous. It will be led by booming Asian exports of oilseeds and products, tobacco, and tropical products destined for Europe and other markets.

Asian beneficiaries of the shortened route will include India, the People's Republic of China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Korea—all of which are expanding their agricultural exports to the west.

But the canal's reopening will benefit Egypt the most. Egypt expects to earn almost $500 million annually in tolls alone, which are now almost twice the 1967 level. Oil tankers now pay $2 per metric ton of cargo; all other loaded ships pay $1.60 per metric ton.

And toll revenues are only part of the story. The rebuilding of Port Said, Suez, and Ismalia will encourage new industries near these revitalized ports. Foreign investments in industry, apartments, banks, pipelines, shops, and shipping facilities are expected to generate an inflow of over $1 billion in foreign exchange annually.

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Grain Pact

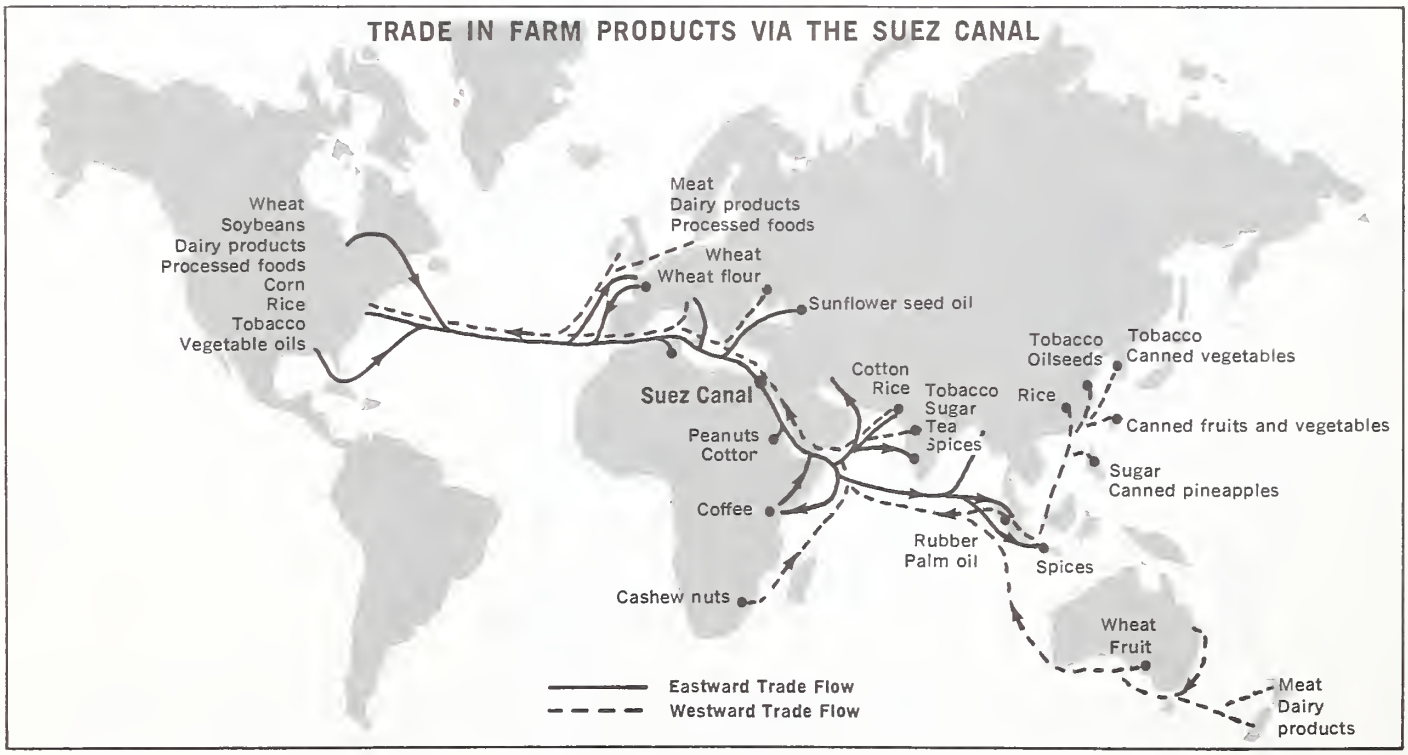
Now that a U.S.-U.S.S.R. grain accord has been concluded, exporters might sell another 5-7 million metric tons of 1975-crop U.S. corn and wheat to the Soviet Union, according to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture *Richard E. Bell*. This is in addition to the 10 million tons of U.S. grain already sold.

At a recent press briefing, Bell explained the terms of the new 5-year grain agreement signed in Moscow. The agreement provides for yearly Soviet purchases of 6-8 million tons of U.S. wheat and corn during the 5 years beginning October 1, 1976. This means potential export earnings of $1 billion a year for U.S. farmers. It thus changes heretofore seesawing trade between the United States and the U.S.S.R. into a more regular, predictable flow. In turn, this should lead to a steadier market for U.S. grains, a more regular supply for the U.S.S.R., and a more stable world market.

Bell pointed out that in future years U.S. sales of grain to the U.S.S.R. without prior Government consulation might actually approach around 10 million tons. This is because only wheat and corn are covered in the agreement, leaving untouched such other grains as barley, grain sorghum, oats, and rice.

Specific terms of the grain agreement include:

- □ Minimum Soviet purchases of 6 million tons a year of U.S. wheat and



corn, with shipment starting no sooner than October 1, 1976.

- ☐ An option to purchase 2 million more tons of U.S. wheat and corn with an escape clause allowing the U.S. to reduce sales to the U.S.S.R. should the U.S. grain supply fall under 255 million tons.
- ☐ The requirement that purchases above 8 million tons be made by the U.S.S.R. only after consultation with the U.S. Government.

In addition, the Soviets agreed to try to space their purchases over the year so as to guard against upsetting commodity markets, as in 1972 when huge purchases were made in a matter of days.

The agreement also forbids the re-export of U.S. grain to other nations, but does not affect shipments of Soviet grain.

At the same time the grain agreement was signed, a letter of intent was signed to conclude an agreement on the sale of U.S.S.R. petroleum and petroleum products to the U.S. The letter of intent contemplates annual U.S.S.R. sales of up to 10 million metric tons (about 200,000 barrels a day) of oil, with prices to be mutually agreed at levels that will satisfy the interests of both countries.

Secretary Butz, commenting on the two agreements, stated that, "The assured grain exports to the Soviet Union are large enough to pay for the contemplated purchase of Soviet petroleum and bring in additional foreign exchange that will make it easier for consumers to pay for petroleum from other sources."

"These regular yearly sales of wheat and corn to the Soviet Union will also make jobs for thousands of Americans," Butz explained. "Every additional billion dollars in sales of agricultural products creates more than 50,000 regular jobs for American workmen."

Negotiation of the grain agreement and the concurrent negotiations on Soviet oil sales to the United States were coordinated by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Charles W. Robinson.

Guarding Animal Health

A Louisiana veterinarian reviews the health status of a cow being shipped to a dairy in Arkansas.

A Kentucky veterinarian examines a race horse scheduled to compete in Europe to make certain it meets foreign health requirements.

A Texas veterinarian vaccinates a young girl's pony to protect it from Venezuelan equine encephalitis.

These three private veterinarians have something in common—they are part of a special corps of veterinarians that have been "accredited" by state and federal governments.

Accreditation authorizes a veterinarian to do certain jobs that cannot legally be done by non-accredited veterinarians. For example, only accredited veterinarians can perform official tests and certify the health of animals moving interstate or going overseas. Only accredited veterinarians can take official part in state-federal campaigns to eradicate domestic animal diseases or to help keep foreign animal diseases from getting a foothold in the U.S.

To become accredited, a veterinarian must receive orientation from state and federal officials and must pass a special test. After getting his accreditation certificate, he must continually study to update his knowledge of state and federal regulations on disease control and animal care.

Being a member of such an elite corps requires adherence to a strict code of ethics and procedures administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Accreditation is directed by *Dr. John M. Hejl*, the official who heads APHIS Veterinary Services.

Accredited veterinarian Dr. Herbert J. Howard *of Leesburg, Va., vaccinates a horse for Venezuelan equine encephalitis. Federal, state, and accredited private veterinarians mounted a strong campaign against VEE over 2 years ago when the foreign based horse sleeping sickness became a potential threat to horses and other equines in the United States.*

Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall. . .

. . .whose publications are most popular of all?

If the requests received by the Government Services Administration's Consumer Information Center are an accurate reflection of public likes and dislikes, the Department of Agriculture's publications are the most popular of all with consumers.

Topping the Center's list of freebies recently, for example, was a publication called *Keeping Records—What to Discard.* The publication is a reprint of a chapter in USDA's 1973 yearbook. Heading the list of publications for sale were *Home Freezing of Fruits and Vegetables* and *Simple Plumbing Repairs*—both USDA produced.

Given their popularity, you probably won't be the first on your block to have copies of them. But if you'd like some anyway, write: Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009. Ask for the publications by title and number, including any remittance with your request:

Keeping Records—What to Discard (241C) free
Home Freezing of Fruits and Vegetables (306C) 65¢
Simple Plumbing Repairs (191C) 25¢

1975 Handbook of Agricultural Charts

The *1975 Handbook of Agricultural Charts*—a graphic portrayal of trends in America's agriculture—was recently issued by USDA's Economic Research Service.

This ready reference book has 200 charts—some with accompanying tables—which illustrate subjects ranging from farm commodity trends to family economics.

Single copies of the *1975 Handbook of Agricultural Charts* (AH-491) can be obtained without cost by writing the Publications Unit, Rm. 0054-S, USDA-Economic Research Service, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Home Canning Safety Check

This year an estimated six million Americans turned to home vegetable gardens as a way of insuring high quality produce for their families and lowering their food bills. Many of those gardeners canned their harvest for use over the winter months. A lot of them were canning for the first time.

As consumers turn to their shelves, USDA urges them to check all home-canned goods carefully before use. Why? Home canned foods are susceptible to spoilage by molds, yeasts, and bacteria. High-acid foods, such as fruit and tomatoes are attacked by molds, causing fuzzy growth. Yeasts cause fermentation. Bacteria thrive in foods such as meats and vegetables. Their acitivity is evident when foods become soft and slimy or have an unusual off-odor. And *Clostridium botulinum* can grow tightly sealed jars of low-acid foods. It produces a lethal toxin.

Examine jars of home canned items closely. A bulge or leak means that the seal is broken and the food has spoiled. Spurting liquid, an off odor or the presence of mold when you open the jar indicate spoilage. Food that appears too soft or mushy may be spoiled. Don't use such food and be sure to destroy it so animals, children or even adults do not inadvertently eat some of it.

Even it all looks well, never taste home-canned foods right out of the jar. USDA recommends that you bring vegetables to a rolling boil, then cover and boil for at least 10 minutes. Boil meats and poultry covered for 20 minutes. Heating usually makes any odor of spoilage more evident.

If home canners closely followed the canning directions provided by USDA and Cooperative State Extension Services this summer they should have little spoilage. Storing properly canned food in a cool, dry place will help retain good eating quality.

Holiday Food Safety

During the holiday season, many foods can be contaminated through careless handling. In the rush of meeting old friends and preparing big holiday meals, it's easy to forget safety rules. To make sure your gastronomic experiences during the holidays are a pleasure from start to finish you may want to read the leaflets, *Holiday Meals. . .Make them Safe* and *Christmas Dinner, Serve it Safely*. Single free copies are available from the USDA Extension Service, Division of Information, Washington D.C. 20250. Single free copies of *Keeping Food Safe to Eat* are also available upon request from the USDA Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250.

PEOPLE

New Assistant Secretary for Rural Development

William H. Walker has been nominated by President Ford as USDA's new Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, subject to Senate confirmation. He succeeds *William W. Erwin* who resigned in July.

Since June 1975, Walker has been Deputy Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service. He has been a farmer since 1961. He served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture for the State of Tennessee from 1971 to 1975. From 1969-70 he was in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

A Woman Among Women

Dr. Ruth R. Benerito, a research chemist at ARS' Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, La., has been elected to national membership in Iota Sigma Pi, honor society for women in chemistry.

Federal Paperwork Award

The 11th Annual Federal Paperwork Management Award was recently presented to the Paperwork Planning and Systems Branch of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Members of the winning team were: Chief, *David H. Leavitt*; *Melville Aston*; *Lois Chlap*; *Linda C. Croyle*; *Elizabeth Dyer*; *William Hauser*; *Mary McCoy*; *Wella Moore*; *Evelyn Muccigrosso*; *Elizabeth Myers*; *Deborah Stokes*; *Amy Whiting*; and *Stephen Willis*. The branch received its award from the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. It was recognized for its efforts to improve public service through paperwork management and simplification. This is the only paperwork management program of the Department of Agriculture to receive such recognition this year.

PERSON TO PERSON

"Man is using the oceans as a sink—as a vast waterfill instead of landfill site for his wastes," says *Harold Tarkow* of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis.

"Dumping pollutants into the oceans," he continues, "is like sweeping dirt under the carpet. You don't notice it until there's so much, you begin to feel lumps."

A wood products specialist for 32 years and now FPL's assistant director for fiber and chemistry research, Tarkow insists he is not an expert on the oceans. But he shares the concern of many who are.

This year Tarkow, one of five winners in a worldwide essay contest, has gained international recognition for the expression of his views. The essay subject, the relation of the oceans to mankind, attracted over 1,500 entries to a contest sponsored by the Japanese Broadcasting Company and the Jananese International Ocean Exposition.

As guests of the sponsors, Tarkow and the other four contest winners from Korea, India, Australia, and Kuwait will spend two weeks this fall in Japan and on the island of Okinawa, the site of the ocean exposition.

An avid listener to short wave foreign radio, Tarkow heard about the contest last February, sent his 500-word essay in March and was notified in June that he was one of the winners. Sharing in the news was his wife, Lisle, and their grown sons, Ted and Steve.

"My family is still coming down to earth—as a matter of fact, so am I," the Madison scientist says.

Tarkow expects to learn a great deal from the exposition. But as a research scientist, he is already impressed with the renewable quality of air, water—even forested lands, which he notes cover one-third of the earth's land surface.

Mindful not only of the oceans, but of the Great Lakes, the Madison scientist insists that "we must clean up industrial and other effluents before they hit our waterways and wander down to the lakes and oceans."

In this effort Tarkow emphasizes the role of improved technology, and claims that Forest Products Laboratory research into new pulping procedures, as one example, will reduce pollution from this source.

All this makes a remarkable background for an essay winner on the oceans. Has the Forest Products Laboratory scientist entered other contests?

"Oh yes," he says with a laugh. "There have been such contest subjects as the meaning of the Apollo-Soyuz space flight, sponsored by the Soviet Union. And Czechoslovakia held one on why I would like to visit their country."

Traveling as an honored guest to Japan and the Japanese International Ocean Exposition on Okinawa certainly qualifies as both interesting and worthwhile. But upon his return, Tarkow will undoubtedly still insist that he is not an authority on the oceans.

Story by Warren Downs
Used with the permission of the Madison, Wis., *Capital Times*

Harold Tarkow *discusses his views on ocean pollution.* **FS photo**

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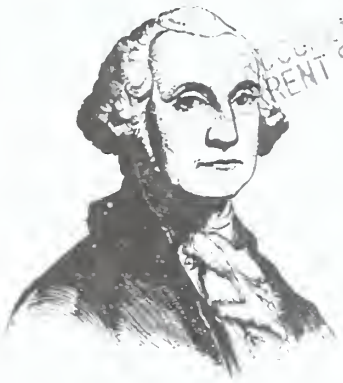

Miscellaneous Interesting Facts for the Erudite Agriculturalist

DID YOU KNOW THAT. . .

. . .George Washington was the Nation's first mule breeder, using a jack and jennets sent him by the King of Spain as his basic, experimental stock.

. . .A young widow named Eliza Lucas Pinckney experimented with several crops on her South Carolina plantation in the 1740's, decided that indigo offered the best opportunity for profit, and made a go of it—at least for a while.

. . .A 19th century Connecticut pathologist wrote his initials on a potato in the field with paste from a fungus he believe caused potato scab. When he dug the potato in the fall, he found his monogram neatly etched by the obliging fungus, which proved his point.

These and other interesting agricultural facts come to light in the 1975 Yearbook of Agriculture, *That We May Eat*, This volume celebrates the centennial of our Nation's state agricultural experiment stations. For more information, see page 2.

State Stations Celebrate Centennial

As early as 1845, a man named John Pitkin Norton advocated a nationwide system of agricultural experiment stations to build up the body of agricultural science. One of Norton's students, named Samuel William Johnson, took up his teacher's cause and became an advocate of agricultural experiment stations. In 1875, just 100 years ago, Johnson's efforts led to the establishment of the Connecticut Experiment Station, the first one in the United States.

Support for the new idea grew slowly. California followed Connecticut's lead and a few other states began small programs. But the main impetus for agricultural experiment centers came from the Hatch Agricultural Experiment Station Act of 1887. The annual grant provided $15,000 in Federal funds, and came at a time when support of this kind was vital to the survival of agricultural research. Additional Federal funds for the experiment stations came along as time went by and subsequent acts raised the state stations to full partnership with the Department of Agriculture.

So the system grew. Work gradually expanded in all the agricultural disciplines. But it was not yet complete. Experimental work developed new knowledge. Classroom instruction imparted this knowledge to the students. But this reached only a tiny fraction of the farmers. There was no system to reach the farmers directly, no way of broadly extending the information which the new institution was developing.

So there came, in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act, setting up the Extension Service. The system was then complete. It had only to adapt and grow. It became a powerful institution for human betterment, admired throughout the world for its contribution to a more efficient and better-rewarded farm populace.

This research-education system has helped bring about a transformation of agriculture. Some of the more dramatic changes that have taken place in American agriculture are traceable in large part to the work of the experiment stations, as amplified and extended through the other branches of the system.

They include hybrid corn, streptomycin, high-lysine corn and sorghum, introduction and improvement of the soybean, artificial insemination, the transformation of the poultry industry, increased use of fertilizer, weed control, farm mechanization, the victory over hog cholera, advances in animal nutrition, and scientific management.

These achievements are highly visible. But there are others, less dramatic, each of which has added its increment to the general advance. For every discovery that gets into the headlines, there are many that make small contributions which, nevertheless, in the aggregate make an impressive total.

And there are those who do what might be called "insurance" work that may never be needed.

As Secretary Butz has said, "Agricultural research is like drilling for oil; you never know whether you're five feet from

Spurred by the efforts of Samuel Johnson *(above), Connecticut founded the nation's first state agricultural experiment station at New Haven in 1875. Since 1888 Congress has appropriated money for agricultural research, with states matching the funds.*

a million dollars or a million feet from five dollars."

Is it worth supporting this research? Who benefits? We all do. The first to benefit are those farmers who are the early adopters of efficient new practices. But by the time the new efficient practice is generally taken up, the effect is felt in a more abundant supply of farm products for all. In 1929, the consumer spent 23 percent of his income for food. In 1974, it was down to 17 percent. This sharp drop is attributable, in good part, to the Land Grant College system of research and education.

What of the future? A burgeoning population in the world requires enormous gains in agricultural science. Between now and the end of this century, 25 years from now, the world's population will almost double. This means that by the year 2000 the world must produce almost as much additional food as it is producing this year. That will take science and education. It will take agricultural colleges and experiment stations and extension services, here and abroad.

The challenge is great, but not beyond our capabilities. □

From a recent speech by USDA Director of Agricultural Economics *Don Paarlberg* at the Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

The fraudulent products which unscrupulous manufacturers sold to Connecticut farmers gave Johnson a powerful argument for an experiment station in Connecticut. After the station was founded, early efforts to protect farmers from fraud included the use of bicycles (above) to collect feed and fertilizer samples. These were analyzed at the station's laboratory to see if they fulfilled the manufacturer's claims.

THAT WE MAY EAT

Consumers benefits stemming from the work of the Nation's state agricultural experiment stations are featured in the 1975 Yearbook of Agriculture, *That We May Eat*.

***That We May Eat* tells the story of the state agricultural experiment stations on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first stations in 1875.**

The yearbook gives an insight into the search for ways to increase food and fiber supplies and provide a better life for consumers.

As a striking example of the payoff from agricultural research, Secretary Butz cites the development of a vaccine to keep poultry healthy and add to consumer meat supplies in the yearbook's foreword. He notes that the estimated worldwide economic value of just this one research program on Newcastle Disease at the Virginia Agricultural Station is $1 billion.

Experiment stations "controlled hog cholera which used to destroy millions of pounds of pork each year," Secretary Butz' foreword continues. "They curbed the wheat rust epidemics that threatened to wipe out wheat—and bread.

"They devised new ways to irrigate dry parts of the country so that we could have larger, more economical supplies of food and fibers . . .

"Agricultural scientists even discovered dicumarol to control blood clots in humans, streptomycin to treat TB and other diseases, and they discovered the significance of amino acids in your diets.

"Scientists also played a star role in stopping the corn blight in 1970—the most destructive disease ever to hit corn. It killed off 15 percent of our huge corn crop that year . . .

"The miracles are so commonplace we can't report them all!"

Congress receives over 200,000 copies of each yearbook and every member has a set number of copies for free distribution. You may request a copy from your Congressman or from one of your Senators. In addition, the 1975 Yearbook may be purchased for $7.30 at government bookstores across the country, or by sending a check or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The Department of Agriculture has no copies for public distribution or for sale.

***That We May Eat* is the 76th yearbook of agriculture. This designation formally began with the 1894 volume and a yearbook has been issued annually since, with a few exceptions in wartime.**

As an annual volume dealing with agriculture, however, the yearbook stems from the 1840's, when Federal agriculture was under the Commissioner of Patents. In 1849, the Commissioner's annual report was issued in two parts. *Part II, Agriculture* was the forerunner of the present yearbook. Congress distributed copies of this report to the public.

In 1862 the Department of Agriculture was founded, and the Department took over the annual agricultural report, which Congress continued to distribute.

Until after World War I, the yearbook consisted largely of reports by Department bureaus, crop and livestock statistical reports, and the Secretary's Annual Report.

In 1936 the first modern yearbook on one subject (genetics) was issued. Recent yearbooks have been devoted to subjects of increasingly broader interest. Eight yearbooks have Spanish translations. The Soviet Union translated one yearbook (Plant Diseases, 1953) into Russian.

Yearbooks from 1948 on remain in print. Copies are sold at government bookstores and by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. To date, more than 1.3 million copies of the yearbooks in print have been sold.

NEWS

It's Almost Too Late

If you know someone who's interested in a summer job with the Federal government, remind them that the final deadline for applications to take the federal summer employment examination is January 16.

Those whose applications reach the Civil Service Commission's office in their area by January 16 will be tested in February. Applications postmarked after that date will not be accepted.

The Civil Service receives about ten applications for each summer job available. Those interested are urged to apply as soon as possible. Detailed information about summer jobs with the Federal government is contained in CSC Announcement No. 414, *Summer Jobs*. Call your local CSC for a copy (check the Civil Service Commission phone listing under U.S. Government) or write: Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C. 20415.

Mark Your Calendars

☐ A recent Federal law changed Veterans Day back to its original November 11 date, beginning in 1978. Since 1968, Veterans Day has been observed on the fourth Monday in October. No more automatic three-day weekend.

☐ The government is going on a new fiscal year. The 1976 fiscal year, which the government is presently in, ends on June 30, 1976. But the fiscal year 1977 won't begin until October 1, 1976. The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, which takes effect for the fiscal year 1977, changes the governments fiscal year from July 1-June 30 to October 1-September 30. Congress has budgeted for a one-time transitional period between the end of fiscal 1976 on June 30 and October 1 when fiscal year 1977 will start.

Protein-packed Wheat

If the new hard red winter wheat variety Lancota were grown on all of Nebraska's wheat acreage, it would provide an additional 100 million more pounds of valuable protein each year compared with present varieties.

Best of all, says Agricultural Research Service agronomist *Virgil A Johnson*, the protein is in that portion of the wheat grain that goes into white flour. It won't be lost in the milling process.

Lancota is a result of a cooperative effort begun more than 20 years ago by ARS and the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, to improve the nutritional value of wheat by breeding. Dr. Johnson predicts that its development may be only the first step in genetic engineering to make wheat a more nutritious food.

Eventually, this research may contribute significantly to the nutritional status of about a third of the world's people who depend upon wheat as a major source of calories and protein.

Lancota is the first hard winter wheat variety adapted to the Great Plains, with the improved protein content. It has a potential for high yields of grain possessing 10 to 20 percent more protein than ordinary wheat varieties. The additional protein will cost consumers and farmers little or nothing, Dr. Johnson points out, because it does not depend upon the use of additional nitrogen fertilizer.

Like any other new variety, Lancota must initially gain farmer acceptance on the basis of its cultural characteristics, Dr. Johnson explains. Farmers presently have limited market incentive to grow a higher protein variety, but they may plant it if it equals or excels currently grown varieties in yield, disease resistance, and other field characteristics.

The Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations and ARS joined in the release of Lancota. Limited quantities of certified seed should be available for 1976 planting.

Agricultural Diplomacy

Secretary Butz headed the U.S. delegation to the 18th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference in Rome Nov. 12-15.

Before arriving in Rome, Secretary Butz met with representatives of the European Community in Brussels. Following the FAO Conference, he met with agriculture and trade officials in the capitals of Iran, Israel, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, and Poland. He also visited London, where he met with officials of the United Kingdom and spoke at a meeting at that country's National Farmers Union.

Strategy for Rural Growth

Improved economic prospects for rural areas depend upon a balanced development strategy according to an economic simulation model stretching to the year 2000.

The computer-based model, fashioned by the Economic Research Service, explored various methods by which rural areas could achieve economic growth in step with urban areas by the year 2000.

Single strategies, when played out on the computer simulation, achieved income goals, but tended to produce undesirable side effects relating to unemployment and migration according to ERS. Simulations which taxed the urban sector and transferred that capital to rural investments indicated that relatively small rural gains were made and these were made at urban expense.

Several alternative Federal programs involving separate approaches to development were considered. The report concluded that several activities might be coordinated into a comprehensive rural development strategy. A balanced or mixed approach, including labor force expansion, job creation, increased productivity, and increased utilization of industrial plant capacity, proved to be the best way to achieve economic goals, according to the report.

Rural Leaders School In North Carolina

The sixth session of the National Rural Development Leaders School is scheduled for Feb. 8-14, 1976, at the Kanuga Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

The school helps state and local leaders learn how to identify and rank their area's problems and to marshal the resources needed to implement priority programs. Applications are invited from residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

For additional information, write: USDA Rural Development Service, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Saving Rural Ambulance Service

City people take their ambulance service for granted. An urbanite suffering a heart attack or stroke can be rushed to the nearest hospital within minutes. But what happens if the victim lives in the country, 30 miles or more from the nearest doctor? His chances of getting prompt medical attention are slight.

The situation wasn't always so bad. Funeral homes and fire and police

departments traditionally provided ambulance service to rural people. But rising labor and equipment costs over the past few years, as well as the often long distances involved, have forced many of them to discontinue the vital service.

Many rural counties are considering furnishing emergency medical services (EMS) themselves, but it is hard to make good choices without solid facts. To help, the Economic Research Service developed a procedure for local leaders to analyze alternative ambulance services in their own community.

The method involves estimating receipts for EMS expences for four different EMS systems. By comparing the two, community leaders can easily see which systems they can afford.

The method is outlined in a new ERS publication, *Economics of Rural Ambulance Service in the Great Plains* (AER-308). The report includes worksheets for estimating receipts and expenses and gives details of a case study in an Oklahoma county.

Single free copies of the report are available from the USDA-ERS Publication Services, Rm. 0054-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Forestry Training at Tuskegee

More and more blacks are preparing for professional careers in forestry under a scholarship program initiated seven years ago at Tuskegee Institute.

The program began in 1968 when the Forest Service helped the Institute develop a program to increase the number of black students in forestry training. After two years of pre-forestry training at Tuskegee, students transfer to cooperating universities to obtain degrees in forestry or related fields.

To date, five students have received bachelor of science degrees in forestry and four are completing work on their degrees.

Last year 35 students, including six women, were enrolled in the pre-forestry program at Tuskegee. This year there are 45 students and an enrollment of 60 students is expected for the 1976-77 academic year.

"Forestry and allied professions offer fantastic opportunities to blacks," says program coordinator Dr. Earl Stephens. "So far, all of our pre-forestry students who have transferred to other universities have had considerable financial assistance of outright grants, work-study, or loans. Once they receive their bachelor of science degrees, they have a choice of several jobs with public and private agencies at starting salaries ranging from $8,000 to $12,000."

For additional information on the Tuskegee pre-forestry program write: Dr. Earl Stephens, Pre-Forestry Program, Tuskegee Institute, Ala. 36088.

The gift for Christmas Future.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

PEOPLE

Looking to the Future

Melvin (Mel) R. Janssen, assistant director of the Economic Research Service's Economic Development Division, recently received the Future Farmers of America's award for distinguished service. FFA Distinguished Service plaques are presented to those who make significant contributions to vocational agriculture and the FFA. Janssen has worked nine years in agribusiness and FFA-related activities, including participation in the National Committee on Employment Opportunities and Training Needs in Agribusiness, a Federally-designated interdepartmental committee.

Outstanding Woman in Dallas

Ola Moore, Civil Rights Coordinator for the Food and Nutrition Service's West-Central Region was recently chosen to receive the Outstanding Service to Government Award by the Dallas-Fort Worth Federal Executive Board Women's Committee.

New Attaches

John C. McDonald was recently appointed agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. He succeeds *Harry Bryan*, who has been reassigned.

James A. Hutchins is now the agricultural attache on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands. He succeeds *Jerome Kuhl*, who has been reassigned.

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December 24, 1975

My Dear Fellow USDA Members:

In this season of peace, we can all be thankful for the agricultural plenty our country enjoys. God has indeed blessed America. Americans have enough to feed themselves abundantly. And they have enough left over to extend food help to many other nations.

We in the Department of Agriculture can be grateful for our role in this gesture of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Mankind.

Earl L. Butz

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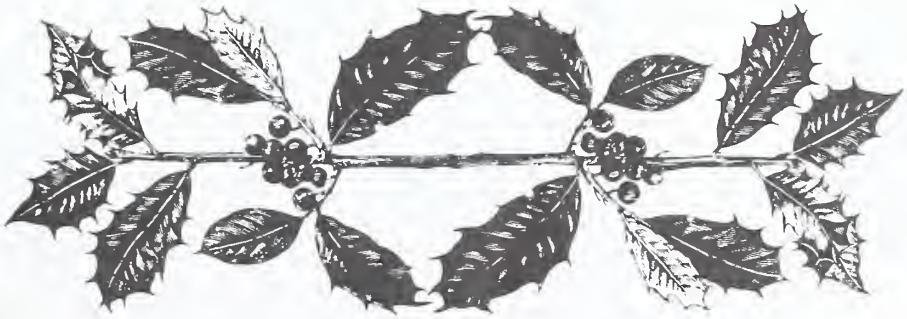

NEWS

Merry Christmas, Santa

Santa Claus is getting a modern telephone system, thanks to a $1 million government loan.

The loan, made by USDA's Rural Telephone Bank, will be used to finance a single party telephone service to the town of Santa Claus and Christmas Lake Village, in Indiana. The money went to the Perry-Spencer Rural Telephone Cooperative, Tell City, Ind., to help it replace an older, multi-party system now in service, and to serve additional customers in the area.

The town of Santa Claus is nestled in the rolling hills of Southern Indiana. For more than a quarter of a century it has been the doorstep to a fairyland dedicated to children everywhere. Over the years the giant 40-ton granite statue of Santa and the echoing "ho-ho-ho's" have beckoned hundreds of thousands of wide-eyed visitors through its gates.

The U.S. Post Office at Santa Claus receives and postmarks thousands of letters each year during the Christmas season. Two trains, the toyland museum, the candy castle, and Santa's elves and reindeer are some of the many attractions. But it is Santa's Headquarters, presided over by the jolly old gent himself, that brings out the thrill and delight of the child in every one who has ever dreamed about the magic and mystic excitement of a visit from Saint Nick. Soon Santa and his helpers will have a new modern telephone system to handle their many calls. Merry Christmas from USDA!

USDA Needs New Executives

USDA faces an unusually high turnover in its management ranks in the near future. A recent survey showed that, Department-wide, exactly 50 percent of USDA's supergrade managers can retire in the next five years. Add to that the sobering fact that 46 percent of USDA's GS-15 managers can retire in the next five years and 33 percent of the GS-14 managers can go. In short, not only an extremely high percentage of USDA's key managers can retire in the very near future, but those normally scheduled to replace them can also retire.

The survey was reported in a memorandum to agency heads which stated that the development of new managers and executives is of crucial importance. The memo noted that the President has made executive development a major presidential objective. "Not to move ahead with aggressive executive development plans would jeopardize the success of many of our programs," agency heads were told. "Our ability to meet foreign and domestic demands efficiently and effectively depends upon the continuation of a quality managerial and executive work-force. Our purposes can be achieved only if the Department is managed by able, prepared, and committed people; and the vast majority of them must come from the ranks of the career service."

USDA's Office of Personnel has a comprehensive and flexible USDA Executive and Managerial Development System which complements agency programs. Those already in managerial and supervisory positions are urged to help identify persons with high management potential. Employees interested in more information about individual development under the executive development system should see their supervisor or agency training officer.

Midwestern Libraries to Serve USDA Employees

The National Agricultural Library has signed a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, to establish a document delivery system serving USDA employees in Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The main libraries of North Dakota State and South Dakota State Universities serve as contact points, as will the C. Y. Thompson Library, East Campus, University of Nebraska; the Steenbock Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison; and the St. Paul Campus Library, University of Minnesota.

This five-state document delivery service creates a system of land-grant institutions and USDA field libraries which will speed delivery of documents requested by USDA field locations.

USDA personnel will submit document requests directly to their USDA field library or the nearest land-grant institution library. Requests which cannot be promptly completed at the state land-grant institution library will be channeled to the University of Minneapolis, St. Paul. Requests not filled at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, will be relayed to the National Agricultural Library as the final source.

USDA has approximately 2,000 employees in this five-state area. Employees work in close cooperation with state researchers and faculty members at land-grant universities and colleges, but may be located at some distance from the libraries. Many have developed their own delivery systems because of their remote locations and the difficulty of access. Agricultural Research Service and the Forest Service are the heaviest users of loan and photocopy services and, in partial fulfillment of their needs, have established small field libraries of their own.

The National Agricultural Library has three additional document delivery regions utilizing the state land-grant institution libraries in the South and for the West.

The additional coverage provides document delivery from 19 state land-grant libraries to USDA employees.

Further information on the system is available from H. Maria Paterman, Director, St. Paul Campus Library, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55101; or *Wallace C. Olsen*, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705.

IWY Becomes IWD

When International Women's Year ends this month, it's really only the beginning—the beginning of the International Women's Decade, 1975-85. The United Nations calls it the Decade of Women and Development. The World Plan of Action, formulated during the IWY World Conference held in Mexico City, looks ahead to "national action over the 10-year period of 1975-85 as part of a sustained, long term effort to achieve the objectives of the International Women's Year" and sketches out action at the United Nations level as well.

From Trash to Trough

Pound for pound, when grain is produced, so is an equal amount of straw. That adds up to a lot of straw. Getting rid of it poses a ticklish problem for most farmers and ranchers.

Increasingly stringent measures to control burning make straw disposal more difficult each year. Burning not only pollutes air, but wastes a usable by-product.

For many farmers, the answer may be standing nearby—their livestock. Feeding straw to livestock isn't a new idea. But in the past, corncobs and rice, wheat, and barley straws proved to be poor feedstuffs. Two substances, lignin and silica, so encrusted the energy-rich carbohydrates in the straw that ruminant animals were unable to break them down.

In 1965, researchers with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Berkeley, Calif., began looking for ways to treat straw and similar materials to increase their usefulness in feeds for cattle and sheep. Two of the processes they developed seemed to show a lot of promise.

In one system, a 30-50 percent solution of sodium hydroxide is sprayed on ground straw, at the rate of 4 pounds to every 100 pounds of straw. Then, the treated straw is either pelleted or put

through a device much like a meat grinder. Both pelleted and extruded forms are denser than untreated straw, making them easier to handle and transport.

The second method involves soaking baled straw with a 20-25 percent solution of ammonia in water.

Stacks of treated straw are then wrapped in plastic and allowed to stand at least 30 days before dehydration. When the stacks are vented, the excess ammonia remains safely trapped to prevent air pollution.

The treated fibers from these experiments performed well in animal feeding trials.

Although eliminating the pollution caused by burning straw is a main objective of the project, cleaner air won't be the only benefit. When supplies of grain dwindle and prices turn higher, replacing grains as much as possible in cattle and sheep rations could also mean lower meat production costs.

Keeping the Land Down on the Farm

Bring in the bulldozer and build a subdivision, or bring out the plow and keep it in farming?

Farmland buyers leaned overwhelmingly toward the second alternative during the year ended March 1, 1975.

USDA economists say that about 85 percent of 123,000 farmland tracts that changing hands that year were expected to remain in agricultural use for at least five more years. This amounts to 93 percent of all acres transferred and 91 percent of the value of those transactions.

Of the land remaining in farming, buyers paid the highest average price—$1,110 an acre—for tracts that were expected to become subdivisions in five years. A year earlier, land to be shifted into commercial and industrial uses bore the biggest price tag.

Meantime, land to be held in agriculture in the coming five years averaged about $424 an acre—up $93 from a year earlier.

Regional land prices veered widely from the national averages. In the Corn Belt, for example, land slated for subdivisions within five years brought only $50 more an acre than land purchased for farming.

In contrast, Mountain State farmland intended for commercial uses in five years' time sold for $1,774 an acre—versus $151 for each acre staying in farming.

Nationally, tracts headed for immediate industrial uses brought the highest average price—$1,872 an acre—of all land transferring directly out of agriculture. Land going directly into subdivisions sold for $1,574, while buyers paid an average of $974 for each acre shifting to residential use.

The Traveling Technicians

USDA dispatched a record 450 economists, statisticians, agronomists, soil and water specialists, entomologists, and other agricultural technicians to take part in overseas technical assistance programs in fiscal 1975. They worked on projects ranging from eradication of tsetse flies in Kenya to land reform in the Philippines and aerial photography of Nepalese forests. Back in the U.S., more than 1,300 agriculturalists from Asia, Africa, the Mideast, and Latin America studied at U.S. universities, private foundations, and USDA itself, which arranges the training. The assistance programs are sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, other international organizations, and the governments of foreign countries.

Brakes on Farm Borrowing

Loans made to farmers and their cooperatives by the Farm Credit System in 1974 totaled $27-½ billion, up 16 percent from 1973, but a moderate gain compared to the 40 percent jump the year before. An FCS official attributes the slower farm loan demand to a more cautious stance taken by farmers in 1974, versus a year earlier when pent-up demand for farm products spurred heavy investments in machinery as well as land. He notes that if inflation were discounted, the growth in loan activity last year would have been substantially more modest. But moving into 1975, loan demand started on the upward spiral again as farmers geared up for record production at a time of historically high input prices.

Mortgage Notes

You may get better terms on a home mortgage if you live in the city than in the country, according to a recent USDA study. While credit terms in rural areas have been improving, say researchers, an examination of existing mortgages on one-unit, home-owner properties revealed that median interest rates ran about 10 percent higher in nonmetro areas than in metro areas. Also, average length of the mortgage ranged about five years less in rural America.

The Inspectors Notebook

During the first quarter 1975, USDA meat and poultry inspectors found chemical residues in nearly 3 percent of all samples tested, about double the rate of the previous quarter. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports that the upturn follows a pattern of increased first quarter violations, which officials attribute to the more frequent use of antibiotics to treat animals during the winter months and the spraying of barn interiors and insides of other shelters. Violations occur when residues of chemicals like drugs, antibiotics, growth stimulants, and pesticides surpass tolerance guidelines set by the Food and Drug Administration or Environmental Protection Agency. Residues from antibiotics were the most common violations, while inspectors found no residues from growth stimulants.

Continental Exchange

The U.S. imported $1.04 billion in farm products from the European Community (EC) during fiscal year 1975, a drop from the previous year's record of $1.23 billion, as demand for competitive farm imports cooled with the downturn in U.S. economic activity. Meantime, U.S. farm exports to the Community remained the same as in the previous year at $5.3 billion. This widened our agricultural trade surplus with the EC to over $4.28 billion and accounted for a third of the improved overall trade balance.

Lean Times for Linseed

It's surprising just how far the impact of today's housing crunch has reached. One obvious effect has been a slowdown in the paint industry. And since paints and varnishes claim about four-fifths of all linseed oil used in the United States, the market for this product has shrunk also.

LOOKING FOR A LAST-MINUTE GIFT?

Sock it away for another day.

Buy U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

THEY KEEP ON GIVING

In fact, domestic use of linseed oil hit a record low in the 1974/75 marketing year which ended June 30. Total U.S. disappearance stood at 125 million pounds, less than half the year-earlier level.

Use of linseed oil in the U.S. began tapering off after World War II. But more recently, tight supplies both here and abroad have strengthened that downward trend. Prices headed in the opposite direction, which helped slow domestic use.

Tapioca Equals Hail (or Have the Researchers Lost their Marbles?)

Those Agricultural Research Service folks are ingenious. Recently some ARS engineers used tapioca to simulate small hailstones, and marbles for hail measuring a third to two-thirds of an inch to assess hail-related soil losses on fallow land.

Hail can be a farmer's worst enemy. A recent 5-year study indicated that hail claims 2-¼ percent of the value of twenty basic crops, costing farmers $685 million a year.

Land lying fallow can be just as vulnerable, but instead of crop losses, producers must contend with soil loss.

Working in their combination rain tower and wind tunnel, the ARS researchers found that in the Great Plains, keeping at least a 50-percent mulch over fallow land can substantially reduce soil erosion caused by hail.

This protection is especially needed in the main hail belt stretching from northern Texas to western North Dakota, where nearly half the cropland is fallowed every year.

Now to get farmers to use the practice and provide some "proof for the pudding."

PEOPLE

New Representative In the Orient

Koy L. Neeley of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service recently went to Peking as the U.S. agricultural representative in the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China.

Neeley, a specialist in the FAS Grain and Feed Division, has been with FAS since 1961 as a grain and feed specialist. He served as assistant U.S. agricultural attache to the Netherlands from 1965 to 1970.

Regional Attorney for Chicago

Winifred D. Molony was recently named regional attorney of the Chicago, Ill., regional office of USDA's Office of General Counsel. She succeeds *Gilbert A. Horn*, who retired.

PERSON TO PERSON

"I consider myself a chemist first and a woman second," says *Wilda H. Martinez*, Food Technology Staff Scientist on ARS' National Program Staff and one of six winners of this year's Federal Woman's Award.

Mrs. Martinez received the award for developing ways to extract pure protein from cottonseed. Food processors are seriously considering using these protein materials as supplements in their products, using methods that Mrs. Martinez developed. Her research is expected to play an important part in improving and increasing the food supply in the United States and in those developing countries where cotton is grown.

A native of New Orleans, La., Mrs. Martinez received her B.A. in chemistry from the H. Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University, New Orleans, and later did graduate work in chemistry at Tulane, Iowa State University and the University of California at Berkeley.

She began Federal service as a chemist at ARS' Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, in 1954, and held progressively more responsible positions there until her appointment to ARS' National Program Staff in Washington, D.C., in May of 1975.

"There couldn't be a better organization than ARS," she says, "I have never felt discriminated against because I am a woman." She adds that perhaps she felt this way because she was a professional and worked in ARS' Southern Region. "The attitude in the South is different."

"As I was given the opportunity to develop I took it," she says. "I have been extremely fortunate—being in the right place at the right time."

She received USDA's Superior Service Award in 1972 and is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Chemical Society, the American Association of Cereal Chemists and the Institute of Food Technologists. She is the author or co-author of 24 publications and two patents.

Mrs. Martinez has one child, a daughter, who is currently a kindergarten teacher in New Orleans. She believes it is hard to combine a career with a family. "A woman who does both jobs well is absolutely fantastic," she says. "It is extremely difficult to make a choice between duties to a family and duties to a job."

Her work, she notes, demands more than just an eight-hour day. "I've had outstanding supervisors and an outstanding group to work with," she says. "You just can't do it alone."

Mrs. Martinez' award is one of the most prestigious government-wide awards given annually by the Civil Service Commission. This year more than 160 women from around the country were nominated for the Federal Women's Award, the largest number of nominees since the program began in 1960. It is the only award program in the Federal government that is exclusively for women. Mrs. Martinez is the sixth USDA woman to receive a Federal Women's Award and the fifth from ARS.

Wilda Martinez

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